

Saudis want to purchase 72 new F-15s

DUBAI (AP) — Saudi Arabia has informed the United States it intends to buy 72 F-15 jet fighters in a deal that would be worth about \$4 billion, a McDonnell Douglas Corporation executive said Tuesday. The Saudi request is sure to face intense opposition from supporters of Israel in the U.S. Congress, which has rejected similar deals in the past. But if approved, the contract would save the F-15 production line in St. Louis from extinction. The Saudi air force currently has 84 F-15s and will receive 10 more from McDonnell Douglas between now and next year, company officials said. The request for the additional 72 multi-role F-15s also includes a request for the aircraft to be equipped with the APG-70 radar built by Hughes Aircraft company. The announcement of the Saudi request was made here by Robert H. Trice, vice-president, business development at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft, the military arm of the St. Louis-based aerospace giant. He estimated the Saudi F-15 deal to be worth \$4 billion if it occurs. Washington was informed of the kingdom's intent Friday, Mr. Trice said.

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Arafat in Amman

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Jordan Tuesday for talks with King Hussein to review the first phase of the Arab-Israeli peace conference and consider the next step.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was not represented at the conference. Palestinians formed a joint delegation with Jordan to circumvent Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Arafat would meet the Palestinian delegates, who are due in Amman from Madrid on Wednesday.

The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation met Israeli negotiators for their first face-to-face talks on Sunday. The second round is expected to convene in a neutral country in two weeks.

"We will continue exchanging ideas and certainly we will review the results of the Madrid meeting," Prime Minister Tahir Masri said in an interview with Reuters and the international television agency Visnews Monday.

"We also have to watch for future developments of the bilateral talks," he added.

Jordan and the PLO have completed a political agreement which says the two sides should work towards setting up confederal links between Jordan and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. Masri said Jordanians still needed to work on the idea, though the Palestine National Council has already called for a confederation with Jordan in two successive meetings.

"Jordan accepts the principle (of a confederation) in principle but we have not taken any real measures to implement it," Mr. Masri said. "We have to develop that concept as the negotiations develop."

Waldheim visits Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived Tuesday for a three-day official visit. Mr. Waldheim was welcomed at Larnaca airport by President George Vassiliou, then whisked away for the 40-minute ride to Nicosia, the Cypriot capital. The Austrian president is re-prosecuting after a trip by Mr. Vassiliou to Austria in July last year.

Chadian president meets Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak met Chadian President Col. Idriss Deby Tuesday for talks signalling warming ties between the two states. Egypt supported former President Hissene Habre against Mr. Deby, who, backed by Libya, overthrew Mr. Habre last year. Officials said the two presidents discussed bilateral relations, African affairs and the Middle East peace process.

Pakistan's military chief in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani met with Pakistan's army chief of staff General Asif Nawaz in Tehran Tuesday, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said Mohsen Rezaie, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, was also present at the meeting. Mr. Rafsanjani told Mr. Nawaz that "one of the reasons for sincerity in relations between Iran and Pakistan is (frequent) meetings of military officials of both countries, and their discussions in various fields."

Iranian calls for ties with Egypt, Morocco and S. Africa

NICOSIA (AP) — A prominent Iranian parliamentarian on Tuesday called for restoration of ties with Egypt, Morocco and South Africa, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Saeed Rajaei Khorassani's call for restoration of ties with Egypt and Morocco was not unprecedented. But South Africa, along with Israel and the United States, are countries with which Tehran has pledged never to restore ties.

Shamir hints at flexibility on venue for talks

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Shamir has hinted that Israel might agree to a second phase of Arab-Israeli peace talks taking place outside the Middle East.

"We have said what we want. We prefer to carry out the bilateral negotiations in the region — or at least not far from it," Mr. Shamir told Israel Television late Monday.

Israel and Arab states are at an impasse over where the next round of talks should take place.

Israel has demanded the talks alternate between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbours, saying this will show Arab recognition of its existence. Arabs want to withhold recognition until Israel returns the occupied territories.

Israel Radio earlier quoted unnamed government sources as saying Israel would have to give up its demand. Egypt has said the venue is likely to be Washington.

"Washington is very far," said Mr. Shamir, but he did not rule it out.

Bush administration officials are poised to take over from the fading parties and pick a site.

These officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, say one highly likely site is Washington. Nearby Williamsburg also has been suggested as a site for the

negotiations.

Sunday, the talks ended with agreement to move on to the bilateral negotiations, but with no accord on sites.

The officials said Secretary of State James Baker could make the move in the next week or so. Mr. Baker has stressed all along that the United States would not shy away from taking strong positions in the role of a "catalyst."

Both President George Bush and Mr. Baker have stressed the difficulty of sticking to the schedule planned by the United States and the Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the peace conference.

The ceremonial phase opened as planned in Madrid Wednesday and, after some resistance from Syria, the second phase was launched on Sunday.

But it was limited to one day of separate procedural discussions between Israel and Syria, Lebanese and Palestinian-Jordanian delegations.

The interruption was no surprise. Israel had insisted from the outset that the talks in Madrid be as brief as possible, and its delegation returned to Tel Aviv Monday.

Syria would have preferred to stay in the Spanish capital, and according to the U.S. officials, insisted that all the talks be held in one building as a way of

(Continued on page 2)

Arabs see prolonged talks in view of Israeli position

DAMASCUS (AP) — Israel's opposition to trading land for peace with its neighbours suggests that it will take a long time for the Madrid dialogue to reach any concrete results, Arab officials, newspaper commentators and others said Tuesday.

But they voiced hope that the United States, strengthened by its victory in the Gulf war and the decline of Soviet influence, will pressure Israel to compromise.

There also was some grumbling that Arabs had not kept to their strategy of a unified front against Israel at the Madrid conference, as decided at a pre-summit parley here.

"The stand of the other Arab delegations was not as agreed in Damascus," said a senior Syrian official who insisted on anonymity.

He was especially critical that Palestinians agreed to proceed with bilateral talks with Israel before Syria and Israel did so.

"The Israelis were keen to meet with the Syrians as the Palestinians were keen to meet with Israel," he said.

The Arabs have called for the occupied territories to be returned, and cite U.N. Security

Council Resolution 242 enacted after the 1967 war as the basis for their demand. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes ceding any territory.

In Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territories, groups hostile to the Madrid conference saw nothing in the four days of talks that changed their opposition.

Riyad Malki, a supporter of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the West Bank town of Ramallah, rejected the Palestinian delegation's willingness to discuss autonomy as an interim step towards independence.

"Autonomy is nothing else but an attempt to beautify the face of the occupation," he told the Associated Press. "We, as Palestinians, reject such a proposal."

In Lebanon, Hussein Musawi, head of Islamic Amal and a close ally of Iran, was quoted by Beirut's Al Safir daily as condemning the peace conference.

"Our conflict with the Zionist enemy cannot end in Madrid or elsewhere because it's an ideological conflict and the Jews are the

(Continued on page 2)

Delegation to Madrid talks returns today

MADRID (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, which opened in Madrid last Wednesday, returns to Amman Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber delivered Jordan's address to the conference on Thursday, the second day of the conference, and outlined Jordan's stands on the peace issue.

The delegation held the first round of talks with an Israeli delegation on Sunday. The two delegations discussed the venue for the bilateral talks and the issue of dividing the joint delegation into two negotiating teams, one Palestinians and one Jordanian.

The joint delegation sources said none of the issues was settled with the Israelis. The Jordanian negotiators to

the talks were headed by Abdul Salam Al Majali while the Palestinian side was headed by Haider Abdul Shafi.

The head of a consultative committee accompanying the Palestinian delegation, Faisal Hussein, said the United States' interest in achieving peace in the region prompts it to face any obstacles posed by the Israelis to block the peace process.

In a statement to a Paris-based weekly magazine, Mr. Hussein voiced his optimism that prospects were good for establishing peace in the region.

He noted that he discussed in Madrid with the U.S. President George Bush the possibility of restoring dialogue between the US and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Mr. Hussein added that the restoration of

dialogue with the PLO will push the peace process forward.

On Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who headed the Egyptian side to the peace conference, said that the land-for-peace principle should serve as the basis for bilateral talks. He added that Arab participation in regional negotiations will be meaningless if no progress is achieved in bilateral negotiations.

Masri said making headway in bid to heal rift with House bloc

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Tahir Masri and several of his ministers Tuesday met with representatives of the Constitutional Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament in an effort to bridge differences triggered by Mr. Masri's exclusion of the bloc in last month's government reshuffle and the bloc's subsequent withdrawal of its confidence from the premier.

According to an informed source, the meeting between the premier and the 18-member-strong parliamentary bloc "was more positive than negative."

The meeting, attended by four members of the bloc including its head Thounan Hindawi, also included ministers from the different parliamentary blocs which converged to form Mr. Masri's coalition government in June.

"We felt that the different parties left the doors open to reach a formula of cooperation which would benefit the country," a parliamentary source told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Masri, in an interview with

the Jordan Times Monday, said he was holding meetings with representatives of the parliamentary blocs which signed a petition last month calling on the cabinet to resign.

"It is premature to talk about the results of such contacts but certainly they are intended to prepare for the next ordinary session of parliament... what these contacts will result in will come out in the coming few days," Mr. Masri had said in the interview.

"The premier and the parliamentary representatives discussed their common perceptions for a working relationship between them and more discussions will probably follow in the next few days," another parliamentary source said.

Tuesday's meeting comes after reported contact between the premier and the Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc, which have maintained ideological opposition to Mr. Masri's government since it was formed in June.

The Democratic Bloc, the parliament nucleus of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), formed the backbone of Mr. Masri's government along

with his own National Bloc, is facing problems of its own in maintaining the link between the political body and its parliamentary representatives.

Sources said that Mr. Masri has maintained "good" links with JANDA itself but there appeared to be a split among its representative ministers and parliamentarians over support of the peace conference.

The sources said Mr. Masri appeared to be seeking reconciliation between parliament and the government before the regular session of parliament is reconvened in the beginning of December.

Mr. Masri said Monday that the aim of the reconciliatory moves was to avert a crisis at this crucial juncture in Jordan's history.

"The government and parliament must find a way to surpass the crisis that we passed through. The present circumstances do not permit any imbalances in the equation between the government and the House," Mr. Masri said.

"Since we are passing through exceptional circumstances the two sides are required to learn from past lessons and from past circumstances and try to find a formula," he added.

Fateh scores surprise victory in symbolic Gaza elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which was seen as losing power to Muslim fundamentalists in the Gaza Strip, scored a surprise victory in Gaza Chamber of Commerce elections.

Both Palestinians and Israelis linked the victory to a changed atmosphere in the occupied Strip due to the Madrid peace conference. The PLO's victory follows its success in turning out large demonstrations in favour of the peace talks.

The election was one of several that Israel has allowed as a symbol of giving Palestinians more control over their lives.

In the voting Monday, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh supporters won 13 seats and the fundamentalist faction Hamas gained the other three on the chamber's board.

When Fateh organised marches by thousands of Palestinians last week in favour of peace, clashes erupted between backers of the PLO and Hamas, which opposes

any accommodation with Israel. More than 50 people were injured.

Hamas succeeded in enforcing a strike during the three days of the Madrid meeting, but apparently this angered conservative merchants whose business has suffered in the nearly four-year Palestinian uprising against occupation.

"It is obvious that the claim that the Gaza Strip is a stronghold for Hamas is false," said Mouhammad Kadweh, a Gaza City merchant.

Mr. Kadweh said the vote "expresses the genuine opinion public in the Gaza Strip. We are saying yes for peace."

Shmuel Goren, former Israeli coordinator in the occupied territories, attributed the PLO win to the peace talks.

"What has happened is that there is a change in public spirit. There is anticipation for developments," Mr. Goren told Israel army radio.

"A large part of the population truly believes that something will

move," he said. "I am not saying they are prepared to halt... the intifada, but you can't ignore the change in the atmosphere in the streets."

Israeli observers have said in the past that Hamas probably had the backing of more than half the Gaza population of 750,000.

Hamas was founded in 1987 and was first allowed to operate freely in what some saw as an Israeli move to use the group as a counter to the PLO. But Israel outlawed Hamas in 1989 and has since arrested most of its main leaders.

Monday's vote was the first Chamber of Commerce election in Gaza since 1964. Earlier this year, Islamic fundamentalists won the elections of the Gaza engineers' and accountants' societies.

In the last year, Israel has permitted chamber of commerce elections in the West Bank towns of Hebron, Jericho and Jenin. These were the first such elections since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 war.

Israel shells Lebanon anew; Sharon wants to go deeper

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled villages in south and southeast Lebanon Tuesday, breaking a two-day lull, security sources said.

The sources said the sporadic Howitzer barrage began at midnight (2200 GMT Monday), targeting three areas near Israel's self-designated "security zone."

The targets included the area around South Lebanon's market town of Nabatieh, which took the brunt of massive air and artillery bombardment by Israel and its allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia last week, the sources said.

That wave of violence came to a halt late Saturday, when the United States reportedly intervened with the Israelis to prevent harm to the peace talks in Madrid.

Other targets of the renewed shelling were fields around the villages of Mashgara, Dellafah and 'Ain Al Tneih in the western Bekaa Valley in southeast Lebanon and the villages of Kabriha and Braichit in the area controlled by Irish troops of the U.N. peacekeeping force, the sources added.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there was no word on casualties Tuesday.

A source at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said 54 Howitzer shells landed on the three targets, compared to 1,200 rounds fired on the Nabatieh area last week before the U.S. intervention.

Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon urged Israel to almost double the size of the "security zone" in South Lebanon and attack Arab guerrillas.

Mr. Sharon, architect of the Jewish state's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said:

"The zone should be wider." Mr. Sharon, who pressed on with Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights even during the Madrid peace conference, suggested pushing the zone up to the Litani River — about twice the current size — and attacking guerrilla bases further north.

He told reporters during a tour of northern Israel settlements he thought the southern sector of the zone "should reach to the Litani River."

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Tycoon Maxwell, who denied Mossad links, 'missing' at sea

LONDON (Agencies) — Billionaire-publisher Robert Maxwell was reported missing in the Eastern Atlantic Tuesday after he disappeared from his own yacht. Trading was immediately suspended in the companies he runs, those firms announced.

Spanish and Canary Islands rescue ships and aircraft searched for the flamboyant, 68-year-old publisher and an all-ships alert was broadcast for help in finding him, Spanish officials said.

Mr. Maxwell's yacht was cruising off Tenerife, the largest of the Spanish Canary Islands, when the crew reported him missing early Tuesday.

Spanish rescue and salvage department official Javier Herce said the search centred midway between Maspalomas Point on Grand Canary Island and La Roca Point on Tenerife where Mr. Maxwell was believed to have fallen overboard.

According to Mr. Herce, Mr. Maxwell was last seen on board at 0445 GMT. He was not reported missing until several hours later,

he said in Madrid.

Mr. Maxwell is "feared lost overboard from his motor yacht, the Lady Ghislaine," during a brief vacation, according to the statement issued by his companies.

Yacht Captain Gus Rankin reported him missing Tuesday morning after "Mr. Maxwell failed to answer a telephone call in his stateroom."

"An immediate search of the ship was made and contact made with the authorities in Tenerife. A sea and air search began after three further extensive searches of the ship found no trace of Mr. Maxwell," the statement said.

Mr. Maxwell was most recently in the news denying the allegations that he and the Mirror had close links with Israel's secret service, Mossad.

Two politicians raised the allegations in parliament last month, taking them from a book "The Samson Option" by American writer Seymour Hersh.

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Palestinian speech implies acceptance of much below 242, prominent activist says

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The "moderate" presentation made by the Arabs, particularly the Palestinian delegation, at the Madrid peace conference might have won international acclaim but at the expense of the basic Palestinian and Arab legal and political rights, a leading Palestinian politician and legal expert argues.

The Arabs, particularly the Palestinian delegation, have started from a minimal negotiating position that they can be trapped in, "contended Ibrahim Bakr, a former member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, and an influential and outspoken lawyer on Jordanian and Palestinian politics.

While Israel started from a maximalist position — insisting that it has a historic and religious claim to all of the territories it controls — the

Arabs indicated acceptance of the 1967 border and there was no explicit demands for the rights of the Palestinian refugees who were displaced as a result of the creation of Israel in 1947.

The Arab presentations did indeed positively influence international and Arab public opinions but have provided some credence to claims by Arab and Palestinian opponents of the peace conference. But there is also growing concern and frustration among supporters of the peace talks that the Arab delegations have already limited their margin of manoeuvre at the more serious stages of the negotiations.

"Each party will have to adhere to its presentation (at the opening conference)," said Mr. Bakr, who has supported the Jordanian and Palestinian involvement in the peace conference.

Mr. Bakr charged that the Palestinian presentation amounted to a waiving of the

right to return or compensation for the Palestinian refugees of 1948, a negotiating position below the minimum level as provided in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Mr. Bakr, who commands broad respect and great influence among all Palestinian and Jordanian trends, said the Arab delegations appeared "impotent" in front of Israel at the conference by failing to respond to "historic claims" made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to the land of Palestine.

"It was a shame for the Arab delegations from the Gulf to the Atlantic to appear in front of the media impotent before a so-called tiny state," Mr. Bakr said.

Although Mr. Bakr's statements implied a strong criticism of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which, despite its physical absence, is effectively directing the Palestinian delegation in Madrid, they also reflect



Ibrahim Bakr

resentment of the PLO leadership of the American trends for the peace negotiations.

Mr. Bakr expressed deep mistrust of the U.S. role as a sponsor of the conference while it remains committed to Israeli military superiority in the region and portrays it as a tiny vulnerable state.

"This 'tiny state' is the long arm of America and is heavily

armed with hundreds of nuclear warheads. This state is still the ally of the U.S., which has kept it militarily stronger than all Arab countries combined," Mr. Bakr said.

For the first time since the PLO authorised Palestinian participation in the peace conference Chairman Yasser Arafat said publicly that he was forced, under American pressure, to accept what he described "as humiliating Israeli terms."

"The Arabs and the Palestinians were forced to go to Madrid," Mr. Arafat told an international solidarity meeting with Palestinian rights held in Tunis Sunday night.

"We have gone to Madrid in accordance with terms dictated by the Israeli side and in turn imposed upon us by the sponsors of the conference," Mr. Arafat said.

The PLO leader's statements were not viewed as a criticism of the presentation

made by the Palestinian delegation but rather as strong resentment with the terms of the peace conference, including, according to Palestinian officials, the concessions implied in the Palestinian delegation's presentation at the conference.

The other terms included the exclusion of a direct PLO involvement in the conference and the abandonment of the Palestinian preconditions, including an immediate halt to the building of Israeli settlements and the representation of East Jerusalem and an American recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination prior to the beginning of the talks.

According to available information, the Palestinian speech at the opening session had to take into consideration American demands that opposed the use of any conditions or any explicit reference to the Palestinian right to return as contained in the

United Nations resolutions.

The speech, delivered by Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, drew wide Palestinian admiration. It challenged the U.S. and Israeli's ground rules by asserting allegiance to the PLO — without referring to it by name — and commitment to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

But Mr. Bakr, who usually makes major contributions to Palestinian policy-making, said that the speech contained major and dangerous concessions that will limit the Palestinian negotiating position.

Mr. Bakr was specifically referring to the acceptance of Israel's pre-1967 borders, the approval of the American suggested interim period and the failure to claim the right for return of the Palestinian refugees of 1948.

"Our homeland has never

(Continued on page 2)

Achievements, differences during Madrid talks

MADRID (AP) — Here is a brief summary of the main achievements and remaining obstacles following Israel's bilateral talks with Arab delegations at the Middle East peace conference.

Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation:

Agreed to meet again at an undetermined time and place. Agreed to maintain direct contacts in the meantime. Agreed to "two-track" approach in which Israel would negotiate separately with Jordan and the Palestinians.

The Israelis committed themselves to negotiate an interim period of self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, to be followed by talks on the permanent status of those lands. Israel agreed to allow freedom of movement for Palestinian negotiators in Israeli-controlled territory.

Diffused over the Palestinians' demand for a freeze on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and on Israel's request to hold future talks at least partly on Israeli territory. Israel and Lebanon:

Agreed to meet again at an undetermined time and place. Did not report any progress on Lebanon's demand for an end to Israel's control of a self-proclaimed security zone in South Lebanon.

Agreed to meet again at an undetermined time and place. Diffused over Syria's demand for Israel to relinquish the Golan Heights, as well as other occupied territory. Diffused over

Israel's requests to establish direct contacts, to adopt the mutual goal of a peace treaty, to agree on refraining from violence during the negotiations.

Next steps

The peace conference set in motion a series of negotiations which could last for years. Here's a brief look at what happens next:

The United States, in consultation with Arabs and Israelis, will propose a site for the next round of talks between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon. Israel wants the talks in the Middle East; Syria wants them in Madrid or at another neutral site. The United States is willing to host them in or around Washington.

Israel will consult directly with the Palestinians and the Jordanians to arrange a site for their next round of talks. Israel has proposed the Israeli and Jordanian Red Sea ports of Eilat and Aqaba. But those talks, too, may take place in the United States. The Palestinians have suggested holding them in Europe.

Some or all of the four sets of Israeli-Arab talks may be held within the next two or three weeks.

Countries of the Middle East, the Gulf and North Africa will meet in about three weeks to discuss issues of mutual interest such as arms control, water resources, refugees and trade. The site for those talks has yet to be fixed. Syria refuses to attend.

Israel said to bar Vanunu from telling his story

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's supreme court rejected a petition by jailed nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu to reveal how he was captured and brought home for trial, the newspaper Davar reported Tuesday.

Israeli agents whisked Mr. Vanunu out of Europe in 1986 after he gave a British newspaper details of the Jewish state's nuclear programme. The hearing on Monday was held behind closed doors and the court secretary said he could not give details.

"The supreme court yesterday rejected my brother's request to allow the public to know how he was brought to Israel," the Israeli newspaper quoted Mr. Vanunu's brother Meir as saying.

"It is unacceptable in a democratic country... that the public be impeded from knowing the truth about my brother," he added.

Mordechai Vanunu, 36, a former employee at the Dimona nuclear reactor in the desert, has been in solitary confinement for five years since Israel spirited him back from Europe to face trial. He is serving an 18-year sentence in a southern Israeli prison.

Early in his trial, he managed to flash a message to reporters written on the palm of one hand saying he had been lured from London to Rome and kidnapped there.

Though Israel has never admitted holding nuclear weapons, it is widely assumed to have a substantial stockpile.

On Monday, Mr. Vanunu was whisked in and out of the courthouse from a police van with dark windows. Journalists were not allowed to photograph him.

"The whole subject is a secret. I cannot give you any report," a court secretary said Tuesday.

Mr. Vanunu's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, could not be reached for comment but his wife said he would not discuss the hearing because it was held behind closed doors.

Mr. Vanunu worked for nine years as a low-ranking technician at the top-secret Dimona plant before telling the Sunday Times that Israel had produced up to 200 atom bombs at the site.

He was convicted of helping Israel's enemies and passing information intended to harm state security. When he took the stand, Mr. Vanunu argued his disclosures were nothing new.

World in the aftermath of the end of the cold war.

"The beginning was difficult, but we have scored big propaganda victories and won support for the righteousness of our cause," he said.

Mr. Kanaan's mother, Mazal Maman, was born in Jerusalem. Her family had immigrated from Morocco. She broke ranks with her family to marry his father just before the war broke in 1948.

It was not until the next confrontation that her brothers came to see her, at her mother's insistence.

"After that there were visits, especially at births, weddings and funerals. They came to us, we went to them."

What does Mr. Kanaan think about the peace process?

"It is something that has been imposed on all sides as part of the changing political climate in the

Robbers hit Saudi Eastern Province

NICOSIA (R) — Gunmen, some firing into the air, have carried out a wave of armed robberies in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, diplomats and bankers in the Kingdom said Tuesday.

In a latest raid last Wednesday, three youths held up a moneychanger's office at gunpoint and grabbed 40,000 riyals (\$11,000).

Armed robbers also broke into the homes of several foreigners in the Eastern Province, heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, last month. Diplomats said money and expensive electrical goods, such as hi-fi systems, were stolen.

Robbers tied up members of the household in at least one raid but no-one was hurt.

The spate of robberies in the conservative kingdom follows a relatively crime-free period since 1989 when the authorities cracked down on drugs-related offences.

Diplomats reported four burglaries during a two-week period in the same area last month. The targets were Britons, Americans, Germans and a Japanese. Arrests had been made, they said.

Unconfirmed reports said an armoured truck carrying one million riyals (\$260,000) was held up and robbed on the road between Dammam and Hofuf three weeks ago.

An executive of the moneychanging firm told Reuters by telephone two youths entered its Al Khobar office and fired three shots into the air. A third waited in a car carrying Dubai number plates.

"Two young men came in carrying small guns but the one in the car had a big machine gun. They were in a hurry and they made people in the shop very afraid," he said.

"They shot three times — once in the roof, once at a chair, and once at a small safe."

No-one was hurt and one of the cashiers managed to lock himself into the main vault, which meant the robbers could only take money from the counter, he added.

Police could not be reached for comment but informed sources said police checkpoints were set up and arrests had been made.

In the 1989 purge on drugs, the government rounded up gangs convicted of armed robbery — which in some cases included police employees.

At the same time, it introduced that death penalty for narcotics smuggling. Most of those convicted as a result of the crackdown were beheaded, diplomats said.

Executions in Saudi Arabia carried out by public beheading, were suspended for nearly 12 months after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year, apparently to avoid attracting the attention of hundreds of foreign journalists sent to the kingdom to report on the Gulf crisis.

"After all blood is thicker than water," Mr. Kanaan said in an interview.

He admitted that he often felt "a stranger among them," especially after he emerged from a 15-year imprisonment in 1985.

He said his family members never asked what had happened, and never in the visits did they talk politics.

"But we did often exchange comments like 'let's hope there can be peace,'" said Mr. Kanaan, who is married and has three daughters.

Although his mother still visits, Mr. Kanaan, the youngest of seven children, said contact with his uncles ceased with the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in 1987. He said that was mainly

due to the fact Arabs could no longer move freely in Israeli areas.

Mr. Kanaan was arrested in 1972 on charges of belonging to Patah and was sentenced a year later to 21 years in jail.

He finally was released in a prisoner swap arranged by a Damascus-based Palestinian group which traded two Israelis it captured in Lebanon in 1982 for 1,150 Arabs.

When pressed, Mr. Kanaan detailed some of the torture he suffered: "Forcing my mouth open and spitting into it, countless number of days in a windowless, unlit cell, other times in a tiny room under intermittent cold showers in the heart of winter, and constant beating."

Shamir hints at flexibility

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrating a united Arab front against Israel.

Syria's demand to stay in Madrid reflected its hope of converting the negotiations into an international conference — thereby enhancing chances for outside influence on Israel.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday praised the "defiant ability" Mr. Baker showed in pushing the Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table.

Nabil Shaat, a close advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told reporters that both the Soviet Union and the United States "played a very constructive role."

"And I must say, in particular the role played by Mr. Baker and his team. It's a very constructive role and... I think his deft ability in getting this conference to continue on its path no doubt is

testimony that we have a serious possibility to go on with this peace process."

The statement marked a clear softening of the PLO's generally critical assessment of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The PLO did not have a direct role in Madrid.

The Israeli delegation to the peace talks has pledged to work towards peace with their Arab neighbours and warned against euphoria.

"The way before us is still long, full of difficulties, obstacles and no doubt crises, but it is also full of hope," said Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at a press conference at the Ben-Gurion airport outside Tel Aviv.

Mr. Netanyahu added that the Madrid meeting "removed a large stone that stood at the start of the path. Israel achieved direct

negotiations with each of its neighbours, something it has strived for."

Cabinet Secretary Eliakim Rubinstein said his team, that met with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, would stay in contact with their counterparts to reach agreement on the rest of the negotiations.

However, Mr. Rubinstein stressed that although the past few days brought "a feeling that history was made, whoever understands the Middle East... knows that there is no place for euphoria."

"We need to build hopes and expectations that are realistic... keeping our feet on the ground," he said.

Yosef Ben Aharon, director general of the prime ministry and head of the Israeli team that met with the Syrians, said: "It could be that this was the start of something. This we will only know in time."

agent Fayek Bisharat said he felt Arabs had no choice but to press forward with negotiations.

"It is better to save what is left of our occupied lands than to lose it all, because war will get us nowhere," Mr. Bisharat said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa urged patience.

"We must not expect a solution from the first session of talks, nor the second, nor the first week, or first month," he said. "It's normal."

The officer, who under military regulations cannot be identified by name, spoke to Israel-based foreign reporters during an army tour of South Lebanon Monday.

He complained that the Lebanese government does not make any effort to stop the Hizbollah guerrillas, adding that the Lebanese are cooperating with Syria.

When asked if the shelling was intended as a message to the Lebanese or the Syrians, he said: "I would say to both of them... to push the Hizbollah to the north."

Media tycoon 'missing at sea'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Maxwell said they were "indiscreet, a total invention" and began legal action for libel.

Mr. Maxwell is one of the best-known publishers in the world. His holdings range from several British tabloids to the Daily News, one of New York's largest tabloids, and the European, a new English-language daily in Europe.

The companies informed the London stock exchange of his disappearance and trading was immediately suspended in the shares of Maxwell Communications Corporation and its affiliate Mirror Group Newspaper Plc.

The boards of Mr. Maxwell's companies moved quickly, naming Mr. Maxwell's son Kevin, 32, as acting chairman of Maxwell Communication, and his son Ian, 35, as acting chairman of the Mirror Group of newspaper.

The sons have worked in the family business for years.

Mr. Maxwell has kept tight control of his companies and his absence would be keenly felt.

When he took his Mirror newspaper public earlier this year, he retained a controlling 51 per cent stake.

Arabs, Jews clash at Kahane murder suspect's trial

NEW YORK (R) — Jewish and Arab demonstrators exchanged blows outside Manhattan supreme court Monday as jury selection began in the trial of El Sayid Nosair, accused of killing militant rabbi Meir Kahane.

Police arrested one man, a Nosair supporter, who was taken into custody after allegedly attempting to strike an officer.

About 30 demonstrators on the pavement below exchanged angry words and eventually punches as jury selection in the courtroom began. Of the 350 potential jurors brought to the courtroom, about 100 were asked to return on Wednesday for further questioning.

Mr. Nosair, 35, an Egyptian-born naturalised U.S. citizen, says he is innocent of the charges, which include murder, attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon and unlawful imprisonment.

He has been held in jail without bail since his arrest on Nov. 5, 1990.

Prosecutors said at least 16 eyewitnesses saw Mr. Nosair fatally shoot the 58-year-old founder of the Jewish Defence League who was speaking at Manhattan hotel.

"I am innocent. I didn't shoot anybody. Somebody else was beside me. He had a yarmulke on his head. When he shot I ran from the room," Mr. Nosair wrote in a police statement.

Mr. Nosair is also accused of

shooting an elderly man who tried to block his escape, and seizing a taxi and its driver.

Mr. Nosair was shot by a uniformed postal service police inspector before being captured.

If convicted of all charges, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

The defence claims an amateur videotape made by a Kahane supporter the night of the killing will prove their client's innocence. Mr. Nosair's lawyers also say that one of Kahane's own supporters, in a fit of hysteria, interfered with paramedics trying to give aid to the radical rabbi.

New York Supreme Court Justice Alvin Schlesinger denied a defence motion that sought to exhume Kahane's body, which is buried in Israel. The defence had wanted a second, fuller autopsy performed to determine whether the bullet wound from a .357 Ruger revolver, or improper medical care caused Kahane's death.

The judge observed that after Kahane's death, the first autopsy showed "precisely" the entrance and exit wounds, the trajectory of the bullet and bullet tracings.

Mr. Nosair is married to Caren Ann Mills, who converted to Islam after their June 7, 1982, marriage. She changed her name to Khadijah.

The couple had two children in addition to one by Ms. Mills's first marriage.

'Speech accepted less than 242'

(Continued from page 1)

ceased to exist in our minds and hearts. But it has to exist as a state on all of the territories occupied by Israel in the war of 1967, with Jerusalem, in the context of that city's special status and its non-exclusive character," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

Dr. Abdul Shafi's statement constituted the most explicit Palestinian acceptance of Israel's 1967 borders. The Palestine National Council's (PNC) 1988 declaration of independence had tacitly accepted the pre-1967 borders by calling for a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Bakr argued — repeating a point that he had made in a memorandum to the PLO on the eve of the 1988 PNC — that the PLO then and the Palestinian delegation in Madrid now should have adhered to the borders outlined in the 1947 partition plan as contained in United Nations Resolution 181 for four reasons:

— Israel had not adhered to the boundaries of the partition plan and later occupied a considerable chunk of the land allocated by the plan to the Arab (Palestinian) state that was supposed to be created according to Resolution 181.

— Israel cannot avoid discussing the boundaries outlined in Resolution 181 since it was created and was provided international and legal legitimacy according to that resolution.

— Resolution 242 did not contain an international recognition or legitimacy of Israel's control of Palestinian lands that it took over in violation of Resolution 181.

— Israel occupies the Palestinian Hima, a Palestinian resort near Syria, but considered it part of the Golan Heights. Thus by confining the Palestinian claim to the West Bank and Gaza Strip the Palestinians practically renounce the claim for Hima, especially that Israel will refuse to renegotiate its status as part of occupied Syrian territories.

"Resolution 242 explicitly provides for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip the Golan Heights and also the Palestinian Hima which was occupied as part of the Golan Heights," Mr. Bakr said.

Israel is expected to refuse to compromise on the Palestinian Hima, especially that whoever controls the strip of the land controls the Yarmouk River — an important score in the conflict over water resources between Israel and the Arabs.

Consequently, Mr. Bakr says, by accepting the interim period and the pre-1967 borders the Palestinians have accepted far less than provided by Resolution 242.

In his speech Dr. Abdul Shafi declared readiness to accept the interim period suggested by the Americans but stressed that the Palestinians will not allow the transitional period, during which there will be some form of autonomy, to be transformed into a permanent status.

Until 1988, when Jordan relinquished its responsibility for the Israeli-occupied West Bank leading to the declaration by the PLO of an independent Palestinian state, Palestinian regarded the acceptance of 242 as a major concession since the resolution does not address Palestinian national rights.

Mr. Bakr, who had in the past opposed Mr. Arafat's

policies but had stood firmly in support of the PLO leadership since 1987, warned that by accepting the interim period and the American scenario the Palestinians are settling for far less than what was provided in the 1978 Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt.

"There is a plan for phased withdrawal. This is less than Camp David," said Mr. Bakr.

In his speech Dr. Abdul Shafi implied that the Palestinians were seeking amendments to the interim period but he did not reject outright the American scenario.

The American scenario involves autonomy rule followed after two years by the election of representatives to negotiate the final solution for the future of the occupied Arab lands. Dr. Abdul Shafi, however, called for condensing the timeframe for the interim period "to respond to the dispossessed Palestinians' urgent need for sanctuary and to the occupied Palestinians' right to gain relief from oppression and to win recognition of their authentic will."

Dr. Abdul Shafi's statement clearly meant that the Palestinians were determined that the interim period will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and that the issue of Palestinian refugees, including those displaced after 1948, will not be discussed at the bilateral talks.

The problem of the refugees is expected to be negotiated at the multilateral talks among Israel and all of the Arab parties concerned over regional issues such as economy, water and security arrangements.

But again Mr. Bakr cautioned that such a step can lead to a waiver of the Palestinian people's right to return and serve the Israeli purpose of settling the Palestinians in the Arab countries and avoid facing the issue of Palestinian national rights.

"The Palestinian delegation should have categorically rejected that the refugee problem should be the responsibility of the multi-party talks. This implies the acceptance of the Israeli objective of settling the Palestinian refugees in the Arab countries and a waiver of the refugees' right to return," said Mr. Bakr.

"Again he pointed out that even Resolution 242 provided for a better solution for the refugee problem."

"Resolution 242 provides that there should be a just solution to the refugees on the basis of Resolution 194," he said.

Resolution 194, endorsed on Dec. 11, 1948, says Palestinian refugees should be allowed to return to their homes and lands and those who did not wish to return should be reimbursed.

The waiving of the Palestinian right to return is cited by Palestinian hardliners as a major reason for opposing the peace conference.

But some PLO officials reject such claims, insisting that the Palestinian delegation will be able to invoke all of the resolutions pertinent to the Palestinian question at the negotiating table. This argument was expressed in Dr. Abdul Shafi's speech, which cited Resolutions 181 and 194 but fell short of a clear insistence that they were part of the basis of the peace talks.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde est a Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Asimut
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and allie
21:18 Cosmos
22:00 News in English
22:30 Equal Justice

PRAYER TIMES

04:33 Fajr
05:52 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19 Asr
14:28 Maghrib
16:47 'Isha
18:26

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 610740
Catholics of God Church, Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67444
De la Salle Church Tel. 651757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assam International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623854, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperature will take place and winds will be light and variable. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

UNRWA to expand services offered in refugee camps

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will pursue its activities and implement its programmes and plans — especially in the health, education and social services — and will try to expand such activities, according to UNRWA Director in Jordan Frank de Jong.

Mr. De Jong was addressing a ceremony held Tuesday for the inauguration of a mother and child health sub-centre at Nuzha neighbourhood, close to the Al Hussein Refugee Camp on Jabal Hussein.

The construction of the centre was part of UNRWA's series of health projects for the benefit of residents of refugee camps living away from the agency's main health centres, Mr. De Jong noted.

The centre is designed to ease the burden on the agency's main health centre in the Jabal Al Hussein area and to extend services to outlying areas, said Dr. Nashed Ammari, director of UNRWA's health services. Dr. Ammari said that the agency's health centres were trying to implement programmes aimed at solving problems related to chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and anemia among children and pregnant women.

Now that success has been achieved in stemming the spread of contagious diseases like polio, diphtheria, tetanus and the whooping cough, the agency's health centres will be concentrating efforts on non-communicable diseases, he said.

Dr. Ammari said that thanks to the continued health services, rates of measles, meningitis and chicken pox cases have dropped considerably.

In another development, the agency's various health, education and social activities were explained by the agency's director to a 12-member team of jour-

nalists sent on a tour of the region by the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN-DPI).

Mr. De Jong focused attention on the agency's services in Jordan where, he said, they are concentrated mainly in the refugee camps. The camps and the other areas with Palestinian concentrations have received additional number of residents lately in the wake of the Gulf crisis, Mr. De Jong said. He added that the agency was expanding its services in these areas, which suffer from poor living standards.

The UN-DPI team arrived here Monday evening on a visit to Jordan in order to inspect the agency's services to Palestinian refugees.

The 12-member team of journalists representing newspapers in European nations also met with Adel Irsheid, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department, who outlined the Jordanian government's assistance to the refugees.

Jordan is continuing to provide assistance, especially in the education and health fields to the refugees living in the camps, Mr. Irsheid said. At the same time, Jordan is assisting the Palestinian people under occupation to market their agricultural products here and abroad, he added.

Mr. Irsheid spoke in detail about the situation in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the sufferings of the Palestinian people under occupation rule. Mr. Irsheid urged the European nations to offer additional aid to the refugees.

The team will visit the bridges area on the River Jordan Friday morning before flying to Syria. A team spokesman said that the journalists had come to Jordan from Tunis where they met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials for a discussion on the Middle East situation.

Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature to be announced today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Winners of the Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature will be announced today in a ceremony patronized by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Her Majesty will award the winners their prizes JD 1,000 each and a certificate of appreciation. The Queen will also distribute certificates of participation for the 28 Jordanian writers who competed for the award's five categories of short story, novel, poetry, playwriting, folktales and scientific literature. The Queen Noor Award for Children's Literature was first announced in 1988 on the Day of the Arab Child to encourage Jordanian writers to produce quality Arabic children's literature.

Speakers at today's ceremony will include the Minister of Education, Dr. Eid Dahiyat;

well-known Jordanian author and critic Dr. Hashem Yaghi and a representative of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the sponsor of the award.

After the ceremony, Queen Noor will inaugurate a specialized national children's book exhibition which includes the works of 40 Jordanian writers in the field of children's literature. The exhibition also includes publications of research and studies done on Arab children's literature in Jordan. A special section of the exhibition presents a directory of the literary works and contributions of all Jordanian writers in the area of children's literature.

The award's first winners were Munira Shreih for the category of short story; Nadia Abu Taha for playwriting; Mohammad Al Taher for poetry and Dr. Sura Saba' Al-Aish for scientific literature.

Franco-Jordanian Medical Congress to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — About 300 Jordanian pediatricians and general practitioners will take part in the first Franco-Jordanian Medical Congress to be held on Thursday and Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Seven French and 10 Jordanian specialists in pediatrics and neonatology will present working papers. The papers will deal with nutrition, child's renal metabolic and infectious diseases as well as intensive care in the neonatal period and monitoring pregnancies.

The congress will be opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor and will be attended by Denis Bauchard, French ambassador in Jordan and His Royal Highness Prince Raad Ben Zeid,

honorary president of the Jordanian-French Medical Association.

The congress is a result of the cooperation between the Jordanian-French and the Franco-Jordanian medical associations and the cultural service of the French embassy in Amman.

The Franco-Jordanian Medical Association, which was founded in Paris in October 1990, is headed by professor Jacques Milliez who is also head of the Euro-Arab Medical Association. The Jordanian-French Medical Association was created in Amman last August. Dr. Fathieh Saoudi, a pediatrician, is head of the association.



School-aged children, forced to support their families, are increasingly working as shoe shine boys in downtown Amman.

Poor economic conditions forcing kids to work as shoe shine boys

Officials admit they are unaware of problem

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two government ministries concerned with social and education development in Jordan are failing to address a serious social problem, namely the presence of tens of young children roaming the streets of the capital trying to earn a living by shoe shining.

Officials from the ministries of social development and education admitted they were unaware that such a phenomenon exists in Amman. Officials from each ministry tried to shift the blame on the other ministry for the problem.

Every morning, tens of children between the ages of eight and 15 converge from the poor districts of the capital on the busy streets of downtown Amman in order to practice shoe shining.

Interviewed by the Jordan Times most of the kids said that they dropped out from school because their families were poor. Some said that they

were the sole income earners of their families and have to buy clothing and food for their younger sisters and brothers.

One of the boys, 11-year-old Fadi, said that his father was seriously ill and his mother had worked as a house cleaner for sometime but had recently lost her job when her employer hired a Sri Lankan woman to replace her.

Another boy, 14-year-old Khalil, said that he left school while in the seventh grade although he was doing well in school, largely due to his father's sudden illness. He said that he had to work to support a number of brothers and sisters because relatives had failed to come to the help of the family. Khalil said he worked from seven in the morning until seven in the evening and collected about JD 3 a day.

Saber, a 13-year old boy said that his father has been unemployed most of his life, forcing the young boy to work to support the family.

Asked to comment on the situation, Minister of Social

Development Awni Al Bashir said that his department was only concerned about the beggars on the street. The Ministry of Social Development has no knowledge about these kids, who should be going to school for compulsory education, the minister said. The responsibility for the future of the young boys lies squarely with the Ministry of Education, he said.

Dr. Thounqan Obeidat, director general of education at the Ministry of Education, said that while shoe shining is no shameful occupation, it should not be done by children of school-going age. Education is compulsory for all males and females in Jordan; and the Ministry of Education must offer all children basic education from the first to the 10th grade free of charge in accordance with the constitution, Dr Obeidat said.

He said that he would instruct school principals to follow up on the dropouts issue to prevent an aggravation of the situation.

Jordan in process of formulating plan of action to ensure children's wellbeing

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Committees comprising various government officials, in conjunction with humanitarian organisations, are putting the final touches to five reports which are to be incorporated into Jordan's plan of action meant to address children's problems.

The committees, created to define problems Jordanian children are faced with and formulate objectives, are part of the Kingdom's effort to fulfill its pledge to address the needs of the children. The pledge was made when His Majesty King Hussein formally endorsed the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a Plan of Action in May.

The declaration, adopted at the World Summit for Children held in New York last year, calls for taking steps that ensure the wellbeing of children. Specifically, the convention called for world leaders to commit themselves to the principle of a "first call for children," ensuring that even in

times of economic hardship sufficient government resources will be allocated to meet the essential needs of children.

"If you have to tighten up your belt financially, it should not be at the cost of the (children)," said Nigel Fisher, UNICEF representative in Jordan.

UNICEF is one of the many humanitarian organisations helping Jordan formulate a national strategy to achieve the goals set out by the declaration in New York.

The Jordanian national plan is not expected to be formulated until a conference is held to evaluate the reports of the committees later this year. The five committees will suggest ways for Jordan to address:

- Child health and nutrition, which will detail the level of malnutrition in Jordan and the medical needs of the children,
- Child learning,
- Children and the environment, specifically cleanliness of living conditions but also the safety and availability of water resources, etc.
- Children and the economic crisis.

Children in difficult circumstances, which will deal with urban, or street, children, child abuse and other similar problems.

"The conference is supposed to formulate a plan to be integrated with the national plan for development," said Hussein Shakhateh, head of the Manpower Division at the Ministry of Planning who is coordinating and planning the meeting.

Among the goals the plan is supposed to help achieve will be the reduction of the infant mortality rate in Jordan from 35 deaths per 1,000 live births to 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by the year 1994, Mr. Shakhateh said.

Other goals include increasing child immunisation levels from the present 87 per cent to 98 per cent and to increase the female literacy rate from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

"When you educate mothers, it will reflect on the caring (for the children)," said Mr. Shakhateh. "Mothers will be more aware of the children's problems."

Symposium calls for helping countries receiving refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on asylum and refugee law concluded here Monday with a call for providing international humanitarian aid to Arab states receiving waves of refugees and displaced persons.

Participants issued an urgent appeal to the international community and the Arab World to provide support to the Arab countries, which provided and have been providing great assistance, including shelter, to the refugees and displaced persons. They also called on the international community to respect the refugee laws and the basic human rights of refugees.

Participants recommended that another appeal be issued to the Arab states which have so far not ratified the United Nations Charter of 1951 and the 1967 protocol to do so. They further stressed the need for enacting legislations on the protection of refugees

based on the teachings of Islam, and in line with the longstanding Arab and Muslim traditions in providing asylum and shelter.

They stressed the need for supporting Arab League efforts to develop and adopt an Arab charter on refugees and for providing international protection to the Palestinian refugees, particularly by the United Nations.

They also recommended that Arab countries do their utmost to enable the Palestinian refugees to enjoy the freedom of movement, residence and work. The participants called for issuing an urgent appeal to the United Nations to pressure Israel into implementing the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilian population in times of war.

They adopted another recommendation calling on the Arab League to cooperate with Arab

governments and organisations to convene a conference on human rights.

Announcement From The Ministry Of Water And Irrigation Water Authority

Contracts 26/91 Through 45/91

Further to the announcement published on 12/10/1991 concerning the issuance of the above mentioned contracts financed by the World Bank Loan No. 3306 JO. The Water Authority draws the attention of all bidders and embassies who have obtained the Tender Documents that new amendments were issued and could be collected from the Tenders Division/Water Authority's main building in Amman.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

EC pledges to offer further aid to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Meetings between Jordan and the European Community's (EC) commission in Brussels have been successful, resulting in further EC commitments for economic and political aid to the Kingdom.

The foreign ministers of Britain, Germany, Italy and France have all pledged support and backing to the Kingdom at all levels in the ongoing Middle East peace process and further economic assistance to Jordan over the coming months and years, according to foreign minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who is leading the Jordanian team to the talks.

Dr. Abu Jaber, who went to Brussels from Madrid, held talks with the EC foreign ministers on aid to Jordan and the progress of the peace talks.

In a statement to Radio Jordan, Dr. Abu Jaber said the talks centred on cooperation between Jordan and Britain, Germany, France and Italy.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said his government was ready to offer Jordan an immediate aid package of \$40 million and will

study prospects for future aid, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He said that the Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who chair the commission council, discussed with the Jordanian team plans to implement economic restructuring programme and the Dutch foreign minister voiced the community's readiness to help Jordan in this respect. Mr. van den Broek has promised an extra EC aid package of nearly \$50 million to Jordan this year and said the EC would make a revision of earlier agreements with a view to increasing aid to Jordan under new arrangements.

Dr. Abu Jaber is accompanied to the meetings by Minister of Finance Basel Jaradneh and Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz.

The Jordanian team is currently discussing with the EC commission the implementation of its Fourth Protocol, signed last June with Jordan. Under the protocol, the EC is supplying some \$138.5 million to the Kingdom to help boost the country's economic and agricultural sectors.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that he briefed the EC ministers on the progress in the Madrid conference and noted that the EC countries were deeply satisfied with Jordan's performance. He said that the EC ministers have expressed their countries' readiness to offer all possible assistance to the Kingdom.

According to Radio Jordan, Dr. Abu Jaber reviewed with the EC ministers various political and economic developments in Jordan and the country's current economic difficulties largely resulting from the Gulf crisis.

Dr. Fariz, for his part, stated that the team discussed EC's technical aid to Jordan and financial assistance provided through the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The EC is one of Jordan's biggest foreign aid donors. It has spent millions of dollars over the past few years on the improvement of Jordan's economy and has been among the few countries that extended aid to the Kingdom in the wake of the return of more than 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf.

Information minister calls on population to support Jordan's efforts in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Monday said that the battle for peace is just like the military battle and has its own weapons, strategies, detailed plans and tactics.

Addressing audience at the Arab Youth Forum (AYF), where he was invited to lecture about Jordan and the peace process, Mr. Sharif reviewed the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and said that the current historic era which the Arab nation is passing through is not but of the long historical stations of history.

Mr. Sharif discussed the latest developments and changes which prompted Jordan to enter the peace process, which calls for restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and solving the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

The success or the failure of the

peace process hinges on Israel's position and its preparedness to accept international legitimacy and respect the international will to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, he said.

Mr. Sharif touched upon some of the features of the new political map of the world following the collapse of the eastern bloc, the increasing tendency towards democracy in countries, the end of the cold war and the growing influence of the United States.

New international developments have focused on finding solutions to regional problems, which caused competition between East and West, he said.

Mr. Sharif recalled that U.S. President George Bush's commitment, which was spelled out during his address before the U.S. Congress, to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with international legitimacy. This American commitment has encouraged Jordan to enter the peace process, thus joining other Arab parties which have

called for a peaceful solution to the conflict on the basis of land for peace.

Mr. Sharif said that Jordan, which had contributed to formulating the U.N. Resolution 242, through His Majesty King Hussein, cannot be neutral in the battle for peace, because it is directly affected by what is going on in the occupied territories. He noted that the U.S. foreign policies are not formulated through attractive romantic slogans, but through resort to reason, logic, concern for the public interest and adjustment to international changes.

Mr. Sharif expressed hope that those who have rejected the current peace drive desist from attacking others and contesting their integrity and their goodwill. They should take into consideration Jordan's current circumstances, its capacities and the challenges facing it, and not to shoulder a burden beyond its ability to handle, Mr. Sharif said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali congratulating him on the anniversary of the assumption of his constitutional powers in Tunisia. The King wished President Ben Ali continued good health and happiness and the Tunisian people further progress and prosperity.

Physical punishment in school to be evaluated

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Eid Dahiyat decided Tuesday to form a specialised committee to follow up the issue of the use of physical punishment at schools in the Kingdom. The committee will draft a comprehensive strategy to put a limit to the increase in the use of physical punishment and will present its recommendations to the minister before next February. The committee comprises several directors of the ministry's various departments.

Symposium on cooperative movements organised

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan a symposium on "The Role of Arab Cooperative Movement in Achieving Food Security in the Arab World" will be held Nov. 17 here in Amman. The symposium aims at shedding light on the role of the Arab cooperative movement, in enhancing relations between cooperative societies in Arab states and in marketing and increasing Arab production of food industries and agricultural products. The three-day symposium is organised by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), the Arab Food Industries Federation, the Arab Cooperative Food Security Federation and the Arab Cooperative Movement Society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street.
- ★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio-illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Adeeb Alwan at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdel Hameed Shoushan Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of photos by Thierry Girard at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Iraqi artist Rafi' Nasiri will deliver a lecture on his experience in the field of plastic art since 1959-90 at Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture, Gardens Street 7 p.m.

Rajah Kilani Est.

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Jordan Times

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
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Preparing for a new age

JORDAN'S DEMOCRATIC experiment can no longer be viewed as just an experiment; it has to be turned into a force. We should no longer accept attempts to perpetuate past traditions in a new-and-improved-democracy-gift-wrapping. This has never become more imperative than now as we open negotiations to liberate Palestinian lands and pave the road for a confederation between Jordanians and Palestinians. The prospects of the future place on us an urgency to strive to modernise our institutions and our thinking. Institutions and thinking are, however, related to people and unless new blood is allowed to flow within all hierarchies of our social, political and economic systems we cannot expect to cross into the future. Individuals, can make or break institutions. Our institutions, which had been shaped a long time ago, are being kept static on the same old methods and rules which have become as old and obsolete as the buildings they inhabit if not more worn out. We cannot hope nor should we think that we can cope with the new regional and world order while we still retain our old and archaic thoughts and institutionalised bureaucracy.

Although there still exists many traditional constraints, a way can always be found to placate these traditions while at the same time effecting the required change. It is time to make the appointment of individuals in public posts a challenging undertaking. That, for example, can be done through a viable examination of the merits of appointees to higher posts be their undersecretary-generals, department heads or heads of major public institutions. One way of institutionalising this is to copy the U.S. system of appointment to higher posts whereby each appointee goes in front of a special parliamentary committee that holds public hearings on the individuals' suitability for the posts. But replacing top-level individuals in itself is not enough. A whole body of laws, legislation and regulations needs to be examined, reviewed and revised. This can be done by utilising the efforts of the Ministry of Justice, the experiences of the lawyers association and the endorsement of Parliament.

As our hopes rise for a quick solution to the Palestinian problem, it becomes apparent that the difficult tasks ahead are not limited to convincing the world of the sincerity of our efforts. Some of the most awesome hurdles to be crossed, when and if our national hopes materialise, is that our economy, democracy and system of justice should be able to incorporate the aspirations of the newly-liberated Palestinians, compete with those of the Israelis and ensure a better future for those who have held the fort here for over four decades. This cannot be achieved if our talents are not liberated, used and rewarded. One of our old traditions, one which we have exercised until late, is what Jordanians have come to call the "game of chairs" where the same people move from one chair to another while new players are never allowed to enter the game. The system should not tolerate incompetence and inefficiency for the sake of avoiding confrontation with those who cannot break the link with the past. If we are to cross into the new age then those in the executive authority should build new institutions and renovate old ones, and those in the legislative authority should ensure that it is based on solid and sound foundations and always with renewed determination and vision.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI daily Tuesday focused its attention on the domestic affairs and said that now that the opening sessions at the Madrid conference are over, Jordanians should be turning their attention more closely to domestic issues. The past week had Jordanian citizens glued to their television sets, following the talks and statements in Madrid, that was quite natural as it manifests the Jordanian people's keenness on acquiring first-hand information about developments that are bound to affect their future, the paper said. But, it said, the battle against the enemy cannot be won through negotiations alone, but rather through continued, strenuous efforts to pursue the course of progress and development, to remain strong internally as well as externally. The paper said that the need is now for concerted efforts, on the part of the government and the public, to find solutions for the chronic issues plaguing the country, mainly those connected with economic difficulties. Laying the infrastructure for democracy and pursuing the process of construction are important elements that help the country achieve progress, said the paper. As this process continues, the public can, at the same time, follow the developments abroad and can interact with matters which affect the country's future, the paper added.

THE first round of peace talks in Madrid has revealed that the Israeli government, which was pressured to go to the Spanish capital, was doing all it can to abort the negotiations, said Al Dastour daily Tuesday. The paper said that Israeli negotiators are trying to waste time and efforts to escape the basic and essential issues, turning the world public attention to the need of changing the venue for the talks. The procedural matters should not be allowed to block the parley which was arranged for the sole purpose of reaching peace that takes into account the rights of the Palestinian people and their future in their own homeland, the paper said. The manoeuvres of the Israeli prime minister and his negotiators in Madrid are seen by many as a mere attempt to sabotage the peace process so that Israel would remain in the Arab lands it occupied in its wars with the Arab states, the paper added. If it is true that the co-sponsors of the conference are there only to provide advice and nothing more, then it is indeed impossible to imagine that the current negotiations can lead anywhere, the paper argued.

Economic Forum

Modern tax system — revenues vs. income

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

The economic problems that face Jordan now are numerous and formidable, as never before. Inflation, unemployment, external indebtedness, desertification and paucity of water resources, urbanisation, and especially what some like to term Ammanisation and, of course, the budget deficit are examples of these problems which are bound to live with us for a very long time.

The problem of budget deficit is unique as it conspicuously dominates the official thinking and thus dangerously overshadows the whole economic arena. And this is strange because we apparently tend to make the problem of the budget deficit the centre of the universe. A look at the table titled "Central government deficit/surplus" that appears among the tables published in the yearbook of international financial statistics published by IMF shows that almost all the countries of the world have a budget deficit that is sustained undisturbedly over time. Nevertheless, the governments of these countries do not make a fuss over that deficit, contrary to us in Jordan. Budget deficits are an understandable reflection of the fact that governments are not interested in saving and that they tend to finance their capital spending from borrowing.

The overpreoccupation of our economic policy with the budget deficit has naturally led it to give top priority to boosting public revenues through a very aggressive tax system based on direct taxes, especially on the income tax. Thus the overriding concern

of our tax system is to raise more revenues irrespective of their devastating impact on production incentives. Jordan will have to devise a modern tax system that enables it to cope with the economic challenges of the future, which emanate from the host of problems cited above. It is not our intention of course to dwell here on the details of such systems but we may introduce their basic notions to the reader.

The present outdated tax system is based on levying taxes on the generation of income. A modern tax system has to be built on taxes imposed on the circulation of income or, rather, revenue. Let us explain.

Your salary is part of your income and is therefore subject to the income tax. But if you receive a permanent grant of, say, several hundred dinars or even several million dinars, it will not be taxable because it is not part of your income. The grant and salary together constitute your revenue.

Now, the so-called tax fairness dictates that the amount of tax paid be determined by your ability to pay which is accurately measured by your revenue not by your income. It is grossly unfair for a person with an income of, say, five thousand dinars to pay tax more than another one whose income is only five hundred dinars but either receives grants (transfers, in technical terms) that bring his revenue up to, say, ten thousand dinars or is already very wealthy.

Yet, that is exactly what happens under our present outdated tax system which confines tax to the generation of income. Instead, taxes must be levied on the circulation of income or of revenue, that is on the spending of earnings. If this is the case, the person with the higher revenue will pay higher taxes because the taxes are paid for buying goods and services. This is fair because spending measures the ability to pay, irrespective of the sources from which the person finances spending.

A tax-system based on the circulation of income means resorting to taxes on consumption and slashing income tax. Imagine we have such a system with the marginal tax rate reaching only 5 per cent. A person earning JD 100,000, will pay only an income tax of five thousand dinars and is left with the rest. Is this really fair? Yes, because that person will pay, proportionately, additional taxes when he/she spends the JD 95,000. As he/she buys clothes, cars, air tickets, etc. But what if the person chooses not to spend that money? That will be even better because he/she will save it. Savings are the engine of capital formation and the most efficient means of imposing economic discipline.

Tax systems based on the circulation of income are fairer. They boost production incentives, combat tax evasion, broaden the tax base and are therefore bound to be the policies of the future.

After decades Israelis and Palestinians met as equals

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

MADRID — They have met before, Israelis and Palestinians. But often there was a rifle, a roadblock or a detention order between them.

In Spain, they met as equals. And the result was surprising. They told jokes. They talked about their families. They drank coffee and ate cake during a break.

Both invoked God's will. "The Arabs said 'Inshallah,' the Israelis 'im yrtzeh hashem.'"

It wasn't all sweetness and light. The Palestinians demanded that Israel stop building settlements in the occupied West Bank. The Israelis demanded that the Palestinians cease their violent four-year-old uprising.

They couldn't agree on a site for future talks. But they did agree to talks again — soon. "It's gotten off to a better start than I would have expected," said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the architect of the talks.

The goal is to allow the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli rule to run their own lives — to elect leaders with genuine powers, freely administer their city halls — for an interim period. During the third year of that period, talks would begin to negotiate the permanent fate of the territory.

The arrangement, while not ideal, suits both sides for the time being.

It reflects the broad changes in the regional balance of power: the decline of the Soviet Union, which was the Arabs' main backer, the resulting growth in U.S. influence and American willingness to twist the arm of its closest ally in the region — Israel.

Although the self-rule proposal doesn't promise Palestinians the independent land they want, it does envisage an end to the interference of the Israeli military in their daily lives and holds out the hope of a permanent solution to their 43-year problem.

Israel hopes that agreement with the Palestinians will snuff out the intifada, or uprising, which has been tying up large numbers of security forces and distracting resources from the country's top priority — the absorption of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

Israel needs U.S.-backed loan guarantees to build housing for the Soviet immigrants, and the negotiations with the Palestinians will likely enhance its prospects.

Relations between Israel and Washington have grown in and out of strain in recent months, and President Bush prevented congressional consideration of Israel's \$10 billion loan guarantee request until January.

Whatever their motives, when the chiefs of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations emerged from five hours of talks Sunday, they opened a new chapter in their relationship.

Israel is still the occupier. And it still has designs on the same land where the Palestinians want to erect their state.

"We feel all of our history seeping through that ground," said Israel's chief spokesman at the talks, Benjamin Netanyahu. "That land is an inseparable part of our identity."

Responded his Palestinian counterpart, Hanan Ashrawi: "Bluntly it's outright theft of our land and resources."

Beyond the rhetoric, some significant decisions were made.

Israel agreed to negotiate from now on separately with the Palestinians and with the Jordanians — something it refused to do for the U.S.-organised Madrid peace conference.

It had insisted that the Palestinians come to Madrid under the umbrella of a Jordanian delegation so as not to provide legitimacy for an independent Palestinian entity.

Now the Israelis and Palestinians will be together without Jordanian involvement — likely in two or three weeks, Mrs. Ashrawi said after Sunday's talks.

Games did not obscure historic contact between Palestinians, Israelis

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

MADRID — While a game of musical chairs was being played out Sunday between Israel and Syria, a more subdued but nonetheless historic scene was unfolding at the Parcent Palace in Madrid.

For the first time, Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians met as equals on neutral ground and talked. They didn't attack their dispute head-on, but they circled around it, prodded it, broke for lunch and got back together in the afternoon.

The talks are at their most preliminary stage, and the adversaries are a long way from agreeing on anything of lasting political substance.

But according to officials on both sides, the atmosphere was relaxed and positive, breaking into occasional humor. There were handshakes, and most of the six Israelis and 10 Arabs contributed to the discussion, sitting at a long wooden table, sipping coffee and mineral water and throwing out ideas on where to go next.

The talks are the first concrete result of the peace conference. Unlike last week's three-day opening of speeches and inactivity at the royal palace, these talks were shielded from the media and therefore much more informal.

In contrast to the other negotiators in Madrid, the Israelis and Palestinians know each other well.

The one has occupied the other for more than 25 years. On the Israeli team, wearing civilian clothes, was Gen. Danny Roth-schild. As Israel's top occupation officer, he routinely meets Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israelis were led by Eliakim Rubinstein, an affable 44-year-old veteran of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Leading the Palestinians was Haidar Abdul Shafi, a courtly, 71-year-old physician from Gaza. He was a founding member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which Israel calls a terrorist group and refuses to deal with.

At least four other delegates have been jailed during the three-and-a-half year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

Although the Palestinians are part of a joint team with Jordan, they have most of the trappings of an independent delegation and are pushing for an independent state.

The Israelis, who do not recognise a separate entity called Palestine, are offering self-rule. The Palestinians say they would accept that, but only as a stepping

stone towards independence. The atmosphere at their talks was in marked contrast to the diplomatic shadow dance going on outside.

Three sets of talks were supposed to take place Sunday: Israel-Syria, Israel-Lebanon, and Israel-Palestine-Jordan.

In what quickly became a rapid game of one-upmanship, the Israelis showed up at what they claimed were the agreed times and places. Syria and its Lebanese allies didn't.

But what mattered was that the Jordanians and Palestinians showed up on schedule, demonstrating they have their own agenda and won't be held back even if they appear to be breaking ranks with Syria.

The talks were dominated by questions about locale. The Israelis reportedly suggested rotating between Aqaba and Eilat, Jordanian and Israeli Red Sea ports 10 kilometres apart. The Palestinians preferred Madrid.

Both sides could claim a victory. The Israelis got the direct, unmediated negotiations they have sought for 43 years. The Palestinians got to negotiate with the Israelis as equals.

LETTERS

We were there all right!

To the Editor:

We are in the age of the rights of man and in a democratic country where people are free to read, listen and watch anything they like.

When the whole world could only transmit the opening session of the Madrid peace conference, as a multilateral transmission, JTV managed to transmit live the activities of the three days of the conference in addition to individual reports and press conference, whereas its budget did not permit the exorbitant costs of extensive hours of satellite services.

Furthermore, JTV was only allocated two-20 minute segments of multilateral transmission a day due to the overload booking of hundred of TV stations and around-the-clock exclusive satellite hiring by some of them.

The very limited number of reporters, cameramen and technicians from JRTV (two TV reporters, one radio reporter, three cameramen & one sound man) permitted to go to Madrid succeeded with great difficulty to only cover the Jordanian/Palestinian delegation to the conference, not to speak of the security restrictions imposed by the host country on their movements. However, other TV networks had several teams in various locations in Madrid.

On Friday, JTV followed live every move of the conference until it closed down and no satellite channels were available to JTV for the press conferences while here in Jordan a prestigious pan-Arab horse show competition was also closing down in Aqaba.

In this instance, we would like to remind the writer of the letter that appeared in the Nov. 4 issue of the Jordan Times that JTV is not exclusively a news network, as some others may be; in addition to the news, it has its own varied range of programmes.

As to the unscheduled press conference of His Majesty the King, it was literally impossible to transmit it live due to the uncertainty of technical connection which delayed the transmission for a long period of time. This was due to the heavy traffic on all available satellites.

On the very rare occasions where JTV shifted its news bulletins backward or ahead, the aim was only to avoid being blamed by the viewers for not carrying live an international event of competitive importance.

In the coverage of news, financial restrictions prevent Jordan Television from placing reporters and crews in various parts of the world, consequently, it has, as many other TV stations in the world, to depend on agencies for worldwide coverage.

In conclusion, we wish to thank the writer that proved to be an assiduous viewer of Jordan Television despite other choices available.

Public Relations Department,
Jordan Radio & Television Corp.
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Middle East talks — the view from America

By Michael Emery

LOS ANGELES — Judging by newspaper headlines, local radio and television summaries, and coffee-table talks, the Palestinian and Jordanian delegates in Madrid have outscored all others in the diplomatic art of appearing sensible and reasonable — if that counts at all in high-pressure international manoeuvres.

In this frantic world of sophisticated public relations experts, expectations of U.S. reporters at the scene and readers/viewers at home is quite high. Extremely heavy news coverage from Madrid delivered at national and local levels filled the people with anticipation of an "historic" moment. Biased by stereotypes of all participants, they nevertheless were eager to judge for themselves.

The consensus here is that if you rank diplomats by their ability to hint at compromise in this game of image-making, then the Palestinians and Jordanians have taken the lead by saying that a short period of limited autonomy for the Palestinians would be acceptable — that's what a lot of Americans wanted to hear, some spirit of true negotiation from the Arab side.

"The 'savescore,' reflecting the American penchant for 'winners and losers,' says the Palestinians have scored some valuable and, in some quarters, unexpected points by shaking off the image of terrorism, while some journalists say Syria scored Israel's points for them by its heavy personal attack on Prime Minister Shamir. The view from here obviously is different from Amman and East Jerusalem

where Mr. Shamir's history is well-known (The Los Angeles Times did print Mr. Shamir's Stern Gang involvement in an effort to explain the Syrian attack, while the New York Times was more vague about his involvement in Count Bernadotte's killing).

Of course it will take more than one side to compromise — and everyone here paying any sort of attention knows that. The most common question here is: "Do you think anything will happen?" Translation: "Will the Israelis give up anything?"

Regarding the fierce arguments over the second venue for talks, the media here gave Arab and Israeli reasons equal play. When printing the texts of speeches from the conference, major newspapers showed balance in their choice of headlines. The flap between Israel and Syria distracted from the compromises and gained considerable attention, with focus on the possibility that the other Arabs should stand aside and negotiate on their own.

On another level of the propaganda war, in the battle of harsh words between Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and various Arab spokesmen, including Bir Zeit Professor Hanan Ashrawi, Mr. Netanyahu is holding his ground well.

That's because the foreign press corps, and particularly veteran journalists who know the facts of the Israeli occupation, have to date not pressed Mr. Netanyahu. He skillfully dodged questions about the jailing of Palestinian political prisoners (there are none, he said) and made numerous untruthful statements about the

history of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship and the PLO without rebuttal. Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon did not gain any measurable attention here or at the conference. There is no attention given to Jordan's assumption of responsibility for 300,000 Palestinians from Kuwait, while there was talk of the Soviet Jewish refugees.

Thus only the most well-informed U.S. reader or viewer would have any chance of knowing there is another side. Seen as a "good looking bully" by knowledgeable Americans, to the others he comes across as an articulate (though-talking but not completely unreasonable) spokesman — amazing as this may seem.

If U.S. newspapers would offer even short summaries of the deaths, detentions and damages that occurred in the occupied territories during the past 24 years — instead of just mentioning the "fact" that there is an occupation — then the average person here would be pulling harder for Israeli compromise.

Nevertheless, in the "first stage" the Palestinians have made media and political history. Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi and Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber have proven themselves to be credible and unshakable spokesmen in the theatre of high tension, while Faisal Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi, Abdul Salam Al Majali and the 25 other official and unofficial Jordanians and Palestinians have effectively gained the attention of hundreds of journalists who knew nothing about them prior to Madrid.

In addition to the Cable News Network (CNN) coverage, of which readers in the

Middle East are aware, the other three U.S. networks have devoted considerable resources to the story. ABC's Peter Jennings has offered particularly sensitive coverage of the Palestinians' rise to the world stage. One of the major cable networks carried a series of uncommon segments on Palestinians in Hebron hounded by Jewish neighbours, the history at Zionism and Jewish and Palestinian views of their history.

Slowly but surely the process of discovery begun during the Gulf war is allowing ideas from the Arab World to reach the mass U.S. audience. Yes, these ideas are counteracted against by the traditional flow of U.S. influenced news, and many stories favourable to Israel, but the dam has been broken.

The next step will be to see if the news coverage deepens during the bilateral talks, and if the Arab spokespersons can continue to impress their new acquaintances in the press corps. The U.S. audience is eager of some good news from the Middle East and has not been affected by the heavy cynicism that pervades the region of conflict.

Thus if one side breaks off these talks, the U.S. audience will blame them for the disappointment, no matter what excuse is offered. Americans, with their usual idealism, think the solution is reasonably easy — each side give us a bit, recognise each other, and start trading with each other! That's one of the several audiences the Arabs and Israelis are playing to and it is the one George Bush is aware of as the 1992 campaign bells ring in the distance.

Madrid conference gave new platform for Palestinian case

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

MADRID — The Palestinians of the occupied territories came to the Madrid peace conference like actors to an audition: They left with star roles and a new era in the propaganda battle with Israel was born.

Calm professionals in suits and ties, they gave the world an alternative image of the Palestinians, stereotyped for years as the guerrilla in uniform — armed, unshaven and inarticulate.

"The Palestinians were actors without a stage. Now they have a stage and they know how to use it," said one Arab delegate to the unprecedented peace talks between Israel and its neighbours.

In a conference where appearances were paramount and substance a sideshow, Israelis reinforced their reputation as the victims of the past.

The new Palestinians, emerging from 24 years of Israeli occupation, where curfews, police raids, travel restrictions and detention without trial are

the daily reality, largely succeeded in portraying themselves as the victims of the present.

The leading lady was undoubtedly Spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, 45, English lecturer at Bir Zeit University, who impressed the audience with her reasoned presentation of the Palestinian case and refusal to rise to provocation.

With a convincing smile and a talent for finding the right word in fluent English, she was more than a match for Israel's chief propagandist, Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"For a long time we have been denied a hearing. We thank you for relaying our narrative to the rest of the world and allowing us to speak out for ourselves for the first time in our history," she told the press in her final briefing.

"I was fed up with the distortion and manipulation by Israel of the image of the Palestinians so I thought we would just speak from our heart and let our case speak for itself," she told Reuters on Monday.

She was not alone, however.

The head of the Palestinian negotiating team, Gaza Doctor Haidar Abdul Shafi, 72, was widely praised for the pacific tone of his speeches to the televised first stage of the conference. They were in sharp contrast with some of the others.

Even Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir paid him a back-handed compliment, saying he made "a valiant attempt" to put the Palestinian case.

Mamdouh Aker, an activist from the West Bank town of Ramallah, and Albert Aghazarian, a spokesman from Bir Zeit — both unknown to the world before Madrid — also gave the Palestinians a new voice in the media.

Mr. Aker, in a televised confrontation with Zalmay Shoval, Israeli ambassador to the United States, cornered him with a demand that Israeli and Palestinian claims to nationhood receive equal treatment. Mr. Shoval did not answer.

"Do I look to you now like a hostile terrorist?" He asked Mr. Shoval, who used the expression

of him when Mr. Aker was held for 40 days earlier this year. "No," Mr. Shoval conceded.

Israel, which never really wanted a Palestinian delegation in Madrid anyway and which imposed conditions on who could be in it, tried to keep them out of the limelight.

Israeli officials often spoke only of Jordan, the other half of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, or, if necessary, of the representatives of the Palestinian Arabs, an Israeli expression designed to deny them a separate national identity.

But the Palestinians just would not disappear.

They won the right to equal speaking time in the three-day first phase of the conference and then they gave their own briefings, independently of the Jordanians.

On Sunday, when they and the Jordanians held their first direct talks with the Israelis, the Jewish state agreed in principle future talks would divide into two parallel sets — one on Palestinian issues and one on its problems

with Jordan.

In the public relations game the losers were the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which watched from a distance with no apparent influence over the course of events.

Israel insisted that no Palestinians with known PLO affiliations should be in the Madrid delegation.

Arab delegates said Israel had unwittingly helped the Palestinians by excluding the PLO, which is notoriously incompetent at handling the media.

"The Israelis did us a favour. Imagine if Yasser Arafat or Bassem Abu Sharif (Arafat's media advisor) had been here," one Palestinian delegate said.

Dr. Ashrawi and her team are known to be in regular contact with the Tunis-based PLO, strictly in violation of Israeli law.

But a groundswell of pro-peace sympathies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip may develop into a local constituency for the negotiators, weakening their links with the PLO as parent.

Change for the Arab World — a time perspective

By Imad F. Abdallah

IT took the Soviet people 70 years to rise up and change their government. It took the intifada 24 years, and it took the American public 58,000 dead and hundreds of thousands of wounded to rise up against the U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Change happens when enough people are willing to do what has to be done to effect change, and for that to happen, the impact or damage must be "catastrophic" and affecting very large numbers.

For instance it has proven counterproductive to believe that five or 10 hostages are going to create the necessary impact on enough people or media to bring about a change in attitude or policy in the U.S. Rather, such a small number of hostages becomes a beneficial tool to a U.S. administration and can be used at any moment to drum up sympathy or explain policy directions, as such there is no "hurry" to get them released or make meaningful compromises.

The hostages in Lebanon have had literally no effect on the Bush or the Reagan administration while the 400 plus embassy hostages in Tehran cost President Carter his re-election in 1980.

For most of the Arab World, conditions are not crucial or bad enough in most instances to bring about change, although at times political events cause untimely and unexpected migrations by large numbers, causing substantial system dislocation and speeding the timetable of change. Most of the non-citizen Arabs who worked in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf were due to return to Jordan sometime in the future, but now they were forced to return much sooner.

The influx, together with large numbers of Iraqi nationals, will be very beneficial to Jordan in terms of human assets; manpower, know how and financial power. Beyond the initial squeeze on services and facilities, many bring with them capital, enterprising spirit and manufacturing experience that will be used to build an industrial infrastructure and create much needed employment.

The long-term benefits to Jordan are immense and will catapult the country years ahead of the normal schedule for a country its size.

Change in the Arab World has been very slow in coming. Leaderships have been reluctant to impose the hardships of tax collection to raise the necessary capital and build the much needed economic infrastructure and a viable defence establishment which allows dealings from a position of strength. In addition, there were always continuous efforts by outsiders to prevent industrialisation, and weaken the ability to compete or become self-sufficient, sometimes covertly and many times openly, as happened to Iraq.

The enormous task of change or advancement can be intimidating, especially in the presence of Israel and its worldwide network

of Jewish supporters. It would be logical to assume that Israel's presence in the Middle East has never been a strategic military asset to the West vis-a-vis the Arab World or the Soviet Union. Israel is too small to undertake the kind of military operations against a heavily militarised country such as Iraq, and Israel would have been the recipient of the first nuclear head from the Soviet Union in case of an East-West conflict. Israel leaders gambled their country's existence by proclaiming their military and strategic asset to the West.

Israel has been a destabilising element in the area and a forcible drain on itself and the Arab countries, with everyone buying arms, with Third World budgets leaving very little for "building a country." Israel was supported by industrialised countries which cannot afford more industrial giants to compete with when they could not block the Far Eastern Asian countries. To date the Arabs remain the only possible new industrial competitors due to their wealth and natural resources, culture and strategic placement. The current industrial powers are aware of this potential.

The astounding reality is that the Arabs command just as much as Israel and its worldwide Jewish support, if not more, in terms of education, capital, and a worldwide network of Arab emigres who retain a similar commitment to their fatherlands as Jews everywhere seem to have for Israel. The recent impact of very well placed 3 million Arabs in the U.S. cannot be discounted, and their economic and political power is gaining substantial clout. American Arabs were even refused "minority status" after surveys indicated they ranked 6th in the U.S. in terms of wealth and achievement.

Arabs are also very prominent in Latin and South America,

Africa, and in many other countries. Many millions are scattered worldwide and can be mobilised ethically, morally, and financially to support their heritage and countries of origin. These Arabs with a "different nationality." They cannot be denied entry, harassed or intimidated, and they have full legal representation available to counteract any such action, whether in various Arab countries, Israel or their adopted countries.

Arabs should anticipate Israel's future role to keep the area heavily armed, destabilised, and dependent on heavy imports which maintains capital flow to exporting countries. Arabs should begin to rely on themselves and assume the commitment and sacrifice necessary to build their countries.

Israelis accepted such hardships to build and defend Israel and became one of the most heavily taxed people in the world; so did most of the industrial West, and so did the Iraqis when they embarked on industrialising Iraq.

There are few shortcuts if any, and the reliance on foreign aid in whatever form can evaporate with the first blow. Arab independent think tanks drawing on this worldwide network can lay the ground for long-term planning and direction and advise on anticipated changes regardless of the political establishments.

The rise must come from within, with vision, leadership, and commitment of everyone. Economic change can be directed, with government assuming authority and a major role in controlling such direction.

The author is an architect based in Houston, Texas, U.S. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Palestinians seize moral high ground, boost image

By Mona Ziaide
The Associated Press

MADRID — Palestinian negotiators presented a realistic and moderate case at the Middle East peace conference that gave their beleaguered people more status than ever before on the international diplomatic stage.

The composition of the Palestinian delegation — and its conciliatory statements at the conference — contributed to what many participants described as a public relations coup.

The team included U.S.-educated university lecturers, political scientists, businessmen and former prisoners — in sharp contrast with the Palestinians' terrorist im-

age of the 1970s.

In Western dress, they sat opposite the Israelis, although part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at Israel's insistence.

Just before the conference opened Wednesday, members of the Palestinian delegation were granted a meeting with President George Bush.

Tahseen Beshir, former Egyptian government spokesman and political analyst, said the Palestinians "have managed to give a human face to the Arab position, refuting the Israeli extremism of Mr. Shamir without being caught in the trap (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir put them to engage them with the past instead of facing the future. They were very

successful."

A speech by Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, a physician from the occupied Gaza Strip, dropped demands for immediate statehood and said Palestinians would agree to a transitional period of self-rule.

He urged Israelis to agree to live side-by-side with a Palestinian state they hope to establish in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although a Palestinian state remains a dream, the delegates apparently managed to establish their plight as the core of the Middle East conflict.

"We told our story. No people in this century were as misinformed about and discriminated

against as the Palestinians," said Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian delegate.

"After all these years of trying to undermine us, trying to discredit us, trying to make us look the unwanted of the earth, we were able to face Mr. Shamir face-to-face and tell him, 'You have failed,'" said Dr. Erekat.

But Israel also allowed the Palestinians some latitude in an effort to keep the conference from collapsing.

The U.S. and Soviet co-sponsors earlier in the week allotted full speaking time — 45 minutes — for Abdul Shafi to make his pitch at the conference, despite Israeli appeals that he should

share the time with Jordanian's chief delegate.

Also, the Palestinian delegates' increasingly public relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organisation did not prompt an Israeli walkout. The Jewish state had rejected any role in the talks for the PLO, which it considers a terrorist group.

The Spanish hosts also granted the Palestinians equal time for news briefings at the press centre, where more than 5,000 journalists gathered. Their representatives — Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi — were excluded from the delegation because Israel protested their links to the PLO.

CNN, BBC gear up for battle over Asia viewers

By Jennie Kantyka
Reuters

SINGAPORE — America's Cable News Network (CNN) and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) are warming up for a battle for television viewers in Asia, home to over half the world's population.

Turner broadcasting systems' CNN, which has beamed around-the-clock international news and business reports into Asia since 1982, now faces a challenge from BBC World Service Television, which started in Asia this month.

"Competition is not something we haven't seen before nor is it something we're particularly frightened of," Peter Vesey, director of CNN International, told reporters.

"We think the region is poised for a major new era in satellite broadcasting, subscription television and the like. We want very much to be a part of that," he said.

The BBC plans to reach around 8.5 million viewers in Asia in the next five years.

"There are around 170 million people in Asia with fluent En-

glish. My target is to reach five per cent of that audience in three to five years," said Christopher Irwin, chief executive of BBC World Service Television.

Mr. Irwin, in Singapore to deliver a lecture, said the BBC would give viewers an alternative to CNN broadcasts.

"We were not prepared to leave global television news to CNN alone," he said.

"There is an alternative to CNN and our approach is different," Mr. Irwin said. "The BBC is renowned for the depth of its journalism and for its commitment to impartiality, its respect for the intelligence of its audience."

Mr. Vesey, who has been holding talks with regional broadcasters in Asia, said CNN was ready to meet the BBC challenge.

The American network has said it will boost regional coverage with new offices opening in New Delhi this year and in Bangkok next year and adding three more world news half-hours during prime time in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We want to provide more background, features and other

looks at various countries and various regions," said Mr. Vesey. "We want to have the right people in the right place so we can move quickly when a regional story breaks."

Mr. Vesey said CNN had not set a specific audience target for Asia.

"Sooner or later, the time will come when miniaturisation will make it impossible for governments to lock out satellite broadcasts"

CNN's largest concentration of viewers in Asia is now in Japan, where around 150,000 households have cable television.

"But in this region I would guess the clear majority of our audience consists of people who own (satellite) dishes who pirate

our service off Intelsat," Mr. Vesey said.

CNN last month reached agreement with Indonesia's Perumtel to transmit on its Palapa satellite, which provides coverage of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

"When we go on the Palapa satellite it will be scrambled. It will be a subscription service in those countries where such services are permitted," said Mr. Vesey.

BBC World Service Television is being beamed across Asia by the Asiasat satellite operated by Hutchison of Hong Kong.

BBC and CNN both expect some initial problems getting a foothold in some Asian countries which ban or restrict the use of satellite receivers.

BBC's Mr. Irwin says World Service Television will concentrate on negotiating to be re-broadcast on terrestrial channels but technological advances will make it impossible for countries to control the use of dishes for much longer.

"Sooner or later, the time will come when miniaturisation will

make it impossible for governments to lock out satellite broadcasts," he said.

CNN's Mr. Vesey said scrambling of signals was one way to broadcast while allowing governments to keep ultimate control.

"There is no country that we have written off saying, 'well we'll never get in there,'" Mr. Vesey said.

"And we want to do it right by working with authorities and respecting the cultural and political concerns that might keep us out of the region."

"Scrambling is very much part of that. Governments will have the right to grant people permission to have dishes to receive us," Mr. Vesey said.

Both CNN and the BBC will be funded by a combination of advertising sales and subscription fees and both services say profits will be ploughed back into programme development.

Mr. Vesey said he expects CNN International to post its first profit this year. Mr. Irwin said BBC World Service Television is not expected to show a profit in the first two years, following its start-up in Europe in March 1991.

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Jordan Times

Kasparov beats Karpov to win Tilburg tournament

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP) — World Champion Garry Kasparov won the strongest tournament in chess history with a resounding victory over fellow Soviet grandmaster Anatoly Karpov.

The battle between the "two super Ks," whose rivalry has dominated the chess arena for the past decade, culminated in the 15th Annual Interpolis Chess Tournament, where eight of the world's top players had come together with an unrivaled combined ELO strength of 2,666 points.

Already certain of an overall tournament victory, Kasparov went all out with white while his black enemy, who had produced only four wins in the grueling competition, seemed worn out.

After launching a theoretical twenty-two move into their Scotch game, Kasparov quickly gained the upper hand and already four moves later Karpov could think of nothing better than to sacrifice a piece.

In return he obtained some counterplay, but it was not enough. Kasparov easily warded off the few traps his opponent laid, and at the 22nd move there was no longer any doubt about the outcome. Karpov might have resigned then and

there, but he stubbornly soldiered on only to concede defeat at the 44th.

With the overall score between the two Ks now 81 1/2 to 77 1/2 in Kasparov's favor, it would seem the world champion had nothing to complain about.

But Kasparov complained of being "unhappy" about the way he had played in Tilburg.

"I have too many other things than chess on my mind, lately," he told reporters.

"I mean personal things, but also politics, and what has happened in my country recently. All that doesn't make preparing for a tournament any easier, you know."

Despite the complaints, the world champion was all smiles when he raised a glass of champagne during the prize ceremony and received the \$12,500 winner's share of the \$55,000 total prize fund.

The \$8,750 second prize went to Britain's Nigel Short, who downed 17-year-old U.S. champion Gata Kamsky in 63 moves from a queen's with black in the final round.

Viswanathan Anand, the 21-year-old Indian who astoundingly upset Kasparov earlier in the tournament, settled for a draw after only twelve moves with white from a French game against Soviet grandmaster Evgeny Bareev.

Anand said afterward he "was not taking any risks any longer - not with the way I performed the last few rounds. After I beat Kasparov I was up there for a while and it was fine, but what happened over the weekend made me come down to Earth again."

Swiss veteran Viktor Korchnoi scored his only win of the tournament in a Nimzo-Indian with white against Holland's Jan Timman. The Dutchman had the better play for most of the encounter, but overreached himself in an effort to win and had to resign in a lost ending at his 54th.

Final scores in tournament:
1. Kasparov (Soviet Union) 10 points
2. Short (Britain) 8 1/2
3. Anand (India) 8
4. Karpov (Soviet Union) 7 1/2
5. Kamsky (United States) 7
6. Timman (Netherlands) 6 1/2
7. Korchnoi (Switzerland) 5 1/2
8. Bareev (Soviet Union) 3

Financial calamity or golden payday awaits top soccer clubs

LONDON (R) — Financial boom or a multi-million-dollar payday awaits the likes of Liverpool and Arsenal after their European Cup soccer ties Wednesday night.

The French champions, so extensively assembled by millionaire boss Bernard Tapie, drew against Sparta Prague in their second round second tie in Czechoslovakia to unlock a chest of gold after winning the first leg 3-2.

The unthinkable — defeat — could deprive last season's losing finalists of a place in the last eight, with matches at that stage played for the first time in a lucrative mini-league format.

All of the clubs who win through Wednesday will be guaranteed six more games in the competition with cash pouring in through the turnstiles and from television rights.

Arsenal, back in Europe's top club competition after a 20 year absence, have high hopes of progress after holding Benfica to a 1-1 draw in Portugal in the first leg last month.

While Highbury cannot match Benfica's majestic 110,000-seater stadium in Lisbon, a win would give a major boost to the south London club's ambitious improvement plans.

Arsenal will be without Kevin Campbell, scorer of the goal in Lisbon, due to a knee injury and Paul Merson is expected to take his place alongside England striker Alan Smith.

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven, knocked out of the Cup Winners' Cup in the first round last season and now carrying a 0-0 sentence to Anderlecht of Belgium.

gum in the European Cup, know exactly how much will be at stake in Brussels.

PSV general manager Kees Ploegmans has calculated that if they reached the round-robin stage, the club would be some five million guilders (\$2.7 million) better off.

Anderlecht, on the other hand, may have little to gain.

UEFA's president has reported last week to be considering a possible ban on all European matches in Belgium after a court ruling into the Heysel Stadium disaster of 1985 confirmed a suspended jail term on a former UEFA general secretary.

Anderlecht manager Michel Verschueren told Belgian newspapers he felt UEFA would be watching the club, "like a hawk" for any incidents at the match between the old rivals.

"We can't leave anything to coincidence," he said.

The club has installed safety nets behind the goals to prevent fans from throwing objects, and installed spikes on the fences to prevent an invasion of the pitch.

Some 350 police, many on horseback and backed up by three water cannons, will patrol the Anderlecht ground. Plainclothes officers will mingle with the capacity crowd.

Former Dutch International John Bosman, who joined Anderlecht from PSV last season, is likely to start the match instead of Ghanaian teenage striker Ni Lamptey.

Italian champions Sampdoria, beaten 2-1 in Budapest by Honved, need to win the home leg to redeem a poor league season.

They have lost four out of their

last nine games and lost 2-1 to Napoli Sunday, forcing Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov to tell his men to quit complaining and play instead.

Central defender Moreno Mammì returns for the game while play will again revolve around 36-year-old Brazilian midfielder Cerezo and strikers Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini.

Barcelona go into their European Cup tie at Germany's Kaiserslautern worried that the packed domestic league programme will have taken its toll on the Spanish players.

Despite a 2-0 first leg lead, coach Johan Cruyff is concerned that sheer fatigue and a growing injury list will make things extra hard in the Fritz Walter Stadium.

Kaiserslautern, third in the Bundesliga and back on top form, could be missing libero Wolfgang Funkel.

Athletic Madrid, with a 3-0 first leg home lead over Cup Winners' Cup holders Manchester United, are more worried about the English match ball than about any upset.

Despite assurances that a regular ball will be used, coach Luis Aragones fears it could surprise his men.

"I am preparing the players for whatever may happen," he told reporters. Goalkeeper Abel Resino had his own premonitions: "Old Trafford will be an inferno," he said.

Italy's champions Sampdoria, beaten 2-1 in Budapest by Honved, need to win the home leg to redeem a poor league season.

They have lost four out of their

Hani Al Ali wins championship

By Aileen Ramayyan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hani Al Ali proved he is still the undisputed No. 1 tennis player in Jordan when he beat Imad Abu Hamda to win the Jordan Tennis Championship title Tuesday.

After winning the first set 6-3, Ali was leading 1-0 (40-15) when the match was interrupted by rain Sunday.

Abu Hamda could not put up any resistance as the match continued Tuesday and lost the second set 6-1 to settle for the No. 2 spot.

In the match which decided third and fourth places, Ihab Shehadeh, who failed to reach the quarterfinals in the previous round last month, upset fourth seed Laith Al Azzouni 6-3, 6-3, to finish third.

Forty-seven players took part in the final round of the championship which began last Monday at Al Hussein Youth City and was organized by the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF).

"It has been quite a successful championship," said Jordanian national team head coach Youssef Al Oreibi.

Although there were only a few surprises throughout the competition (such as Ihab Shehadeh eliminating the third and fourth seeds Samir Rifa'i and Laith Al Azzouni) the final between Ali and Abu Hamda came as no surprise to anyone.

"I think the real competition was only between 10 out of the 47 participating players," coach Oreibi told the Jordan Times. "Hani Al Ali, Imad Abu Hamda

6-3 to finish third.

The matches determining the ranks of players from fifth to eighth were played Saturday. Naser Kamal beat Khaled Al Nazer 6-4, 6-3 and Rami Farraj beat Iyad Abu Hamda by default.

Farraj later defeated Naser Kamal 4-6, 6-4, 6-0 to win fifth place while Naser Kamal came in sixth, followed by Khaled Al Nazer in seventh place and Iyad Abu Hamda finished eighth.

After three rounds of competition Ali leads the overall standings of the players in the Jordan Tennis Championship with 750 points. Imad Abu Hamda is second with 450 points while Laith Al Azzouni is third with 180 points.

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Sabatini confident of becoming No. 1

NEW YORK (R) — Gabriela Sabatini moved into the world number three ranking spot six months ago and feels time is her ally in continuing the climb to number one.

"I'm not in a hurry, I know I'll get there," the 21-year-old Sabatini said in a tele-conference Monday from her Buenos Aires home. "I think I'm still learning and improving."

At the moment, the 21-year-old Argentine is most concerned about the improvement of her injured back, which she hurt four weeks ago in Zurich.

Sabatini, who had to pull out of a tournament in Filderstadt, Germany, is eager to return at next week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia ahead of the season-ending \$3 million Virginia Slims Championships in New York.

"Right now I feel very, very good," said Sabatini, who resumed playing last week.

Though she failed to win a Grand Slam title this year, the 1990 U.S. Open champion Sabatini feels this season has set the stage for her overtaking world number one Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and number two Steffi Graf of Germany.

"I proved this year I can be number one because I've already beaten everybody," said Sabatini, who notched victories over every member of the world's top five this year.

3 jockeys banned at Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Three jockeys were banned amid controversy at the Melbourne Cup horse race, won on Tuesday by 3-1 favourite Let's Elope.

Trainer Bart Cummings confirmed his reputation as "cups king" when Let's Elope survived imposed by a six-week suspension imposed by stewards for careless riding near the 400 metre mark.

Shane Dye, the jockey of 10-1 runner-up Shiva's Revenge, who had fired in the protest against King for alleged interference, was also suspended for a month on a similar charge 600 metres from the finish.

A third jockey, Malcolm Johnston who rode Maharajah, was



Gabriela Sabatini

Winner of five tournaments this year and the Wimbledon runner-up to Graf, Sabatini has a history of finishing the year strongly.

Three years ago she won the Virginia Slims Championships and last year in the final she battled Seles in the first five-set

women's match in 89 years. Sabatini said strong fan support and the change to battle all the top players for the \$225,000 first prize were ingredients for her late-season success.

"But most important, it is the last tournament of the year so for me it is very, very important," she said.

also found guilty of causing interference and was suspended from riding until Dec. 7.

The race result stood but the stewards' action soured a great victory for local trainer Cummings, with Let's Elope becoming only the second mare to complete the double of winning the country's two top races, the Melbourne and Caulfield cups.

The protest by New Zealander Dye was the first in the race's 131-year history and stewards watched video footage of the finish before dismissing the objection after a 15-minute hearing.

A third jockey, Malcolm Johnston who rode Maharajah, was

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Scorpio is well positioned giving you a chance to wind up arrangements with others so you can know exactly where you stand and when to initiate your portion.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You can join with loyal friends and discriminating advisers this day, until the sun goes down after which you would be wise to stick to proven methods.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Get as much public responsibility in back of you by seeing and following what big wins suggest, then thought do nothing to risk your reputation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) This is the time for you to make sure you travel, make changes, expand, open new avenues of expression during the daytime but tonight take it easy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You are able to find the way to handle these responsibilities that have been of concern to you today, then tonight get tireless tasks done.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Think out a better plan under which to get progressive associates to know just what you have in mind where they are concerned, then rest on your laurels tonight.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you would like to do that means clearing your desk and decks for action is just great during the daytime but tonight build up your health.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) This is one of those days when you can have a great time at the various and varied amusements that appeal to you

so get together with friends. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Whatever brings you the good will of those who dwell beneath the same roof as yourself is an excellent outlet for your unusual energies.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You have an interesting potential now by contacting those who you like whether they be relatives, neighbors or close personal associates.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Keep your attention focused upon money, property and possessions and you will find that you increase your assets and are in a far better financial position.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) The daytime finds you are able to do pretty much whatever you would like to do so go to see and be with good friends and fascinating new allies.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) During the daytime see what you can do that will make all about you more aware quietly and in confidence of your special talents and capabilities.

Today's child, if your child were born today she or he is apt to become very engaged with their activities to the point of neglecting equally important aspects of their health and education. This chart will do well in elegant vacations and have many opportunities for overseas travel and dealings in foreign languages.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When they finally decide that exercise is bad for you, you'll be sorry!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YANGO

NILAF

TUDOU

BUSTIM

Answer: AN

ONE

Yesterday's Jumbles: CASTE JUDGE GENTRY BANGLE

Answer: A practical joke is one that's played on someone - - ELSE

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.

ACROSS

1 Addis

6 Fr. holy woman; abbr.

9 "Never was a good war or - peace" (Franklin)

13 Fracas

14 Look over

15 Verne captain

16 Legendary lady outlaw

18 Morocco

19 Ray's Jew's; abbr.

20 P.D.'s retreat

22 Poe poem

24 Misrepresents

25 Formerly

26 Fragrant shrub

27 "The Ball of SL"

30 Intimation

31 Singular

34 Horatian works

35 Hurt

37 Content

38 Network

39 Noshes

40 Impertinent

41 Linda or Dale

43 Bewildered

45 SSR division

47 White-flowered shrub

51 One who grips

53 Dan. Robt.

54 Yale student

55 Pulitzer fiction winner

57 Loon

58 Man for one

59 "Crest" line

60 - driver

61 - loss

62 Diamond features

5 Flying dog.

6 Swindler

7 Canvas cover

8 Dressing in a way

9 M. Lunsbury

10 Quatrefois

11 Suburban -

12 Major

14 Overused

17 Civil rights org.

19 '68 hero

23 Nav. off.

26 - Yutang

27 Cut grass

28 - driver

Financial Markets

| Currency | New York Close | Tel Aviv Close |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| U.S. Dollar | 1.7735 | 1.7736 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.6390 | 1.6387 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4425 | 1.4420 |
| French Franc | 5.6015 | 5.6075 ** |
| Japanese Yen | 129.25 | 129.38 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2465 | 1.2477 ** |

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.00 | 5.12 | 5.06 | 5.18 |
| Deutsche Mark | 10.43 | 10.25 | 10.31 | 10.12 |
| Swiss Franc | 9.12 | 9.57 | 9.43 | 9.45 |
| French Franc | 7.78 | 8.25 | 8.18 | 8.12 |
| Japanese Yen | 9.00 | 9.18 | 9.18 | 9.24 |
| European Currency Unit | 6.21 | 6.12 | 6.18 | 5.62 |

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 356.25 | 6.85 | Silver | 4.09 | .090 |

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.684 | 0.686 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.2108 | 1.2109 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4165 | 0.4189 |
| French Franc | 0.4735 | 0.4759 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.1220 | 0.1226 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.5281 | 0.5307 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.3699 | 0.3717 |
| Italian Lira | 0.1142 | 0.1148 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.0556 | 0.0559 |

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7850 | 1.7950 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.0773 | 0.07785 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1821 | 0.1831 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | — | — |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1855 | 0.1865 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2100 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7510 | 1.7610 |
| U.A.E. Dirham | 0.1855 | 0.1865 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.3675 | 0.3750 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4700 | 1.4950 |

| Index | 3/11/1991 | Close | 4/11/1991 | Close |
|------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| All-Share | 124.51 | | 124.07 | |
| Banking Sector | 105.19 | | 105.07 | |
| Insurance Sector | 126.39 | | 126.43 | |
| Industry Sector | 153.95 | | 154.07 | |
| Services Sector | 132.15 | | 132.10 | |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| One Sterling | 1.7683/93 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1208/13 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.6425/35 | Deutsche mark |
| | 1.8500/10 | Dutch guilder |
| | 1.4475/82 | Swiss franc |
| | 33.78/82 | Belgian franc |
| | 5.6065/15 | French franc |
| | 1230/1231 | Italian lire |
| | 129.65/75 | Japanese yen |
| | 5.9910/60 | Swedish crown |
| | 6.4330/80 | Norwegian crown |
| | 6.3630/80 | Danish crown |
| One ounce of gold | 356.35/356.75 | U.S. dollars |

World Bank signs technical aid accord with Soviets

MOSCOW (R) — The World Bank threw its weight behind Soviet reform efforts Tuesday with an ambitious plan to help Moscow and individual republics introduce a free market economy and minimise the suffering that goes with reform.

World Bank President Lewis Preston and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the agreement, allowing for \$30 million worth of technical assistance.

The accord brings the Soviet Union a step closer to full membership of the two major Washington-based lending agencies — the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

For decades the agencies were reviled by the Kremlin's former communist rulers for "imposing capitalism" on debt-laden Third World nations.

Financed from a trust fund set aside by the World Bank, the agreement was sealed exactly a month after Mr. Gorbachev reached a special association agreement with the IMF.

Both deals allow for technical assistance but not the major credits that would come with full membership. They are regarded as preliminary steps on the road to full membership. They are regarded as preliminary steps on the road to full membership, a process that can take about a year.

"The application for (full Soviet) membership is under consideration. We are not yet in a situation where we are contemplating lending," said Russell Cheetham, head of the World Bank department dealing with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Cheetham, heavily involved in crafting the technical cooperation agreement, said World Bank experts had worked out an initial three-month plan of action. But the \$30 million could cover expenses for up to two years.

He told a news briefing that the Kremlin signing ceremony gave his team of experts the green light to start implementing the programme, provided that republican governments cooperate.

Basic areas targeted for cooperation include aid in reforming the centralised system along market lines, help for sectors such as agriculture and energy, social security measures, training courses and information.

The World Bank drew up its Soviet aid plan with a mind to implementing it at the republican level, where the real power lies now. All 12 republics are invited to notify the bank if they wish to benefit from the technical aid.

Demirel: I have inherited devastation

ISTANBUL (R) — Suleyman Demirel, set to become Turkey's next prime minister 11 years after the army ousted him for the second time, says he is taking over an economic wreck.

"I have inherited devastation," said the veteran politician after a narrow general election win two weeks ago.

"Inflation is nearly 70 per cent, the budget deficit is huge and unemployment rampant. Domestic debt is 75 trillion lira (\$15 billion) and foreign debt \$50 billion," he pointed out.

Figures released Monday showed October inflation hovering at an annual rate of 66.5 per cent, slightly down on September's 66.9 per cent, but bankers say the picture is not all gloom.

The economy, which grew 9.2 per cent last year, is slated to grow at a more modest, but still worthy, four per cent in 1991.

External performance has held up relatively well, but bankers say austerity is now required to cure inflation and budget deficits. Some doubt a coalition government will find the political will to push the medicine down the country's throat.

Mr. Demirel's centre-right True Path Party became the largest in parliament after the Oct. 20 election ended eight years of Motherland Party rule, but it failed to win a clear majority.

President Turgut Ozal will invite Mr. Demirel, who started talks with leaders of other political parties Monday, to form the next government after the new parliament opens Wednesday.

His main headache will be a fiscal deficit which has soared in the past three years thanks to big public sector wage rises, high prices paid to farmers and costly

investment programmes.

The finance ministry says this year's fiscal deficit will be more than eight per cent of gross national product (GNP).

The last government covered its bills by deficit financing, which spurred inflation and pushed up interest rates.

Banks bought nearly 90 per cent of the 36 trillion lira (\$7.2 billion) worth of government bonds and treasury bills sold in the first eight months. Banks competing for deposits have pushed up annual rates to over 70 per cent.

"What needs to be done is to decrease spending," said one prominent Turkish banker who asked not to be named.

"Increases in salaries and farm prices should be kept to a minimum and investments sharply reduced. Privatisation must proceed fast. Otherwise there will never be fiscal balance," he added.

Another banker said the government should increase prices of state-controlled goods such as petrol, sugar, tobacco and liquor by 30 per cent and raise taxes to halve borrowing requirements.

"Demirel has to be brave. Prices and taxes must be raised and a package of measures must be enacted in one go," he said.

Mr. Demirel may find it hard to square such a programme with his lavish election promises, including unemployment insurance, free medical care and tax exemption to low-income groups, and tax cuts for small shopkeepers and artisans.

For drivers, he promised a 50 per cent discount on bridge and highway tolls and for school children, free books.

The government may be strapped for cash, but at least Mr. Demirel will not be walking into a balance of payments crisis.

The current account deficit, earlier expected to hit \$2.4 billion, is now projected at only \$35 million — an improvement attributed to foreign aid payments worth \$2.3 billion for Turkey's Gulf crisis role and lower imports.

Imports in 1991 are projected at \$22 billion instead of a previously estimated \$23.2 billion because of a halt in wheat imports, a decline in car imports and a lower oil bill.

A billion dollars over an earlier forecast, despite a poor year for tourism and lower workers' remittances.

Exports had reached \$8.3 billion by end-August, more than 11 per cent higher than in the same 1990 period.

Foreign currency reserves are at a near-record \$12.4 billion compared to \$11.4 billion at the end of last year.

Turkey's ability to borrow abroad remains impaired by the Gulf war which raised the cost of borrowing and shrank supply.

Several recent syndications fared none too well because the treasury and private banks priced their bids too low.

"Turkey will have no trouble borrowing what it requires, but it may be some time before credit prices return to pre-Gulf war levels," said a U.S. banker, who asked not to be named.



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Economists say Kuwait has paid off most of its Gulf war debts

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait has paid the United States and its Gulf war allies almost all of the \$22 billion it owed them for ending Iraq's occupation, Kuwait-based economists have said.

The emirate, liberated from seven months of Iraqi occupation at the end of February, was expected to pay the remaining \$1 billion by the end of 1991, they said. Kuwaiti finance officials declined to comment.

Abdullah Al Gabandi, managing director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), told the Financial Times newspaper in London the emirate had settled the bulk of its debts to the allies and the rest would be paid in November and December.

He put the total at \$22 billion but did not give details. Economists say \$13.5 billion was pledged to the United States, whose forces spearheaded the six-week Gulf war.

The remainder was distributed between the other coalition partners — France, Britain, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan and Bangladesh — as well as countries which provided political support like Turkey, the Soviet Union and Morocco.

"The payment is being settled in a very satisfactory way. Kuwait undertook a commitment and fulfilled it fast," one Western diplomat in the emirate said.

The Financial Times said the total cost of the war which followed Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait was uncertain but estimated it at about \$100 billion.

Riyadh-based economists say Saudi Arabia had agreed to pay the lion's share of Gulf crisis costs.

Japan, Germany and the United Arab Emirates also agreed to make substantial contributions.

The U.S. government said in September direct cash payments from the Middle East and elsewhere helped it post its first back-to-back trade surplus in nine years for the first and second quarters of 1991.

Mr. Gabandi dismissed speculation Kuwait was planning to sell off some of its assets to help pay reconstruction costs, estimated at between \$20 to \$30 billion.

In Germany, Kuwait has a 14.6 per cent stake in motor company Daimler-Benz and 20 per cent in metals group Metallgesellschaft while in London it holds nine per cent of British Petroleum.

Daimler-Benz said last week it planned to meet Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) officials, reviving market concern Kuwait might use its stake in the firm to raise cash.

Mr. Gabandi said a \$5 billion loan launched by the emirate last month would be used to help rebuild its infrastructure, particularly within the oil industry.

Whether Kuwait needed to borrow more would be determined by its oil production, he said.

Western oil officials in Kuwait say the emirate has already paid more than \$2 billion to cap 732 oilwells set ablaze by Iraqi troops last February.

Several new wells have been drilled to replace those which were permanently damaged. The emirate's crude production has reached 300,000 barrels per day (b/d) with another 150,000 b/d coming from the Neutral Zone shared with Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait aims to reach a target of 400,000 b/d by the end of the year excluding the Neutral Zone. Production is forecast to reach one million b/d by the end of June and 1.5 million by the end of 1992.

Before the Iraqi invasion, Kuwait was capable of producing two million b/d.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday that Kuwait expects to be producing 550,000 b/d by year-end and two million barrels daily by late 1993.

The Kuwaitis also plan to build a refining capacity of 470,000 b/d by the second half of next year, the respected oil industry newsletter reported.

It said that the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Co. is concluding oil contracts for next year with Japanese companies for initial deliveries of around 100,000 barrels of oil a day.

That's about half the level before Kuwaiti production was halted in August 1990 by the Iraqi invasion.

Negotiations are also under way with other East Asian customers including South Korea and India, the survey said.

Since Kuwait exports stopped, the Japanese have been buying elsewhere.

MEES noted: "It seems that many Japanese companies with ongoing contract commitments in Iran... are wary of taking new lifting engagements for Kuwait crude in 1992, especially in respect of the second quarter when the market is expected to weaken."

The newsletter said Kuwait's "significant production and refining targets" were listed in a memorandum distributed to banks in connection with a \$5 billion loan being raised by Kuwait's behalf for post-Gulf war reconstruction.

Kuwait currently is producing some 400,000 barrels of oil a day following a nine-month operation to cap more than 70 wells sabotaged by Iraqi when the emirate was liberated Feb. 26.

Some 110,000 barrels a day of that is from the so-called Neutral Zone shared with Saudi Arabia.

Zaire currency slides

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's currency, battered by political instability and the collapse of the economy, slid in further 16.6 per cent against the dollar over the weekend, bankers said Monday.

Monday's official rate was fixed at 34,182 Zaires for one dollar compared with 28,500 last Friday, the Banque Commerciale Zairoise (BCZ) said.

Zaire has tried this year to unify the official and black market rates for hard currency. But a dollar was selling for about 40,000 Zaires on the parallel market Monday and the gap with the bank rate was widening, currency dealers said.

Banking and business sources blamed the steady devaluation on the unresolved political crisis after six weeks of upheaval sparked by looting soldiers.

The country's legal government, led by Prime Minister

Mungul Diaka, is challenged by a rival cabinet headed by popular opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi.

But sources put most of the blame for the Zaire's collapse on President Mobutu Sese Seko's decision to pacify mutinous soldiers and striking civil servants with colossal pay awards.

Privates in the army were awarded a 15-fold increase in October, while a captain's salary went up 40 times, Western military sources said.

Monthly pay for a messenger,

the lowest-paid civil servant, increased 17 times from 85,000 zaires to 1.5 million.

Prices of staple foods are soaring because of the pay increases, which are not being matched in what is left of the private sector.

"Now earn half what a ministry messenger gets," a highly-trained hotel worker complained.

"Mobutu is just printing money. Prices are taking off," said one Zairean businessman, whose construction company lost most of its equipment and materials to looters.

Chrysler, the third-biggest U.S. maker, said it lost \$82 million compared with a loss of \$214 million a year ago. Chrysler said it faced sluggish car and truck sales in the quarter and spent heavily on upcoming new products.

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Chrysler would lose between \$150 million and \$225 million for the period.

Combined third-quarter losses for the big three vehicle makers totalled nearly \$2.2 billion, the worst since a \$2.3 billion loss in the first quarter of this year.

General Motors Corp. (G.M.) and Ford Motor Co. posted huge third-quarter losses. Ford plunged into the red with a loss of \$574 million, compared with earnings of \$101.7 million a year ago, while G.M.'s losses were \$1.06 billion, down from \$1.98 billion a year earlier.

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Belgrade rejects EC plan; Croatians strike in Serbia

THE HAGUE (R) — Serbia Tuesday rejected for the third time a European Community (EC) peace plan to transform Yugoslavia into a loose grouping of its six republics, diplomatic sources said.

The decision to spurn the plan at peace talks here exposes the republic to punitive sanctions. EC foreign ministers agreed Monday to introduce a battery of economic sanctions against Serbia if it did not accept the EC proposals, agreed in outline by the other five republics.

Serbia and Croatia agreed to implement a 12th ceasefire during bilateral talks with the EC mediator, former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, before the start of Tuesday's plenary conference session, diplomatic sources said.

Lord Carrington will report to EC foreign ministers Friday morning on whether the ceasefire has held. If it does not hold he will adjourn the peace conference, the sources said.

The plenary session, attended by the presidents of Yugoslavia's six republics and the collective presidency, broke up after one hour at 1.30 p.m. (1230 GMT).

Lord Carrington told the warring Yugoslav leaders the continuing violence was "making a farce of the conference," diplomatic sources said.

The conference split over one crucial clause in the EC plan which would transform Yugoslavia into a loose association of independent republics within existing borders.

Serbia and its traditional ally Montenegro proposed amending a clause in the plan to give ethnic groups as well as republics the right to decide whether to stay in a smaller, united Yugoslavia.

The latest version of the EC plan suggested the new association should encompass "a common state of equal republics for those republics which wish to remain a common state."

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic proposed this be changed to read "a common state of equal republics for those republics and nations which wish to remain in Yugoslavia as their common state."

The four other republics rejected this proposed amendment, which would have allowed the large Serb minority in Croatia and its land to be united with Serbia, Montenegro and other republics which wish to remain in a single state.

The unamended text was rejected only by Serbia.

All five republics except Serbia had previously agreed earlier outline drafts of the EC plan.

Meanwhile Croatian militias Tuesday launched a major attack on the Republic of Serbia as European Community peace talks began in the Hague, Tanjug News Agency said.

In the heaviest attack so far on Serbian territory since fighting erupted in Yugoslavia four months ago, Croatian forces shelled the town of Sid, 100 kilometres west of Belgrade, Tanjug said.

"The attack was sudden. Several houses were hit. Material damage is substantial," it reported. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

In the past Croatian forces have fired a few mortar bombs across the River Danube, which separates their republic from Serbia, and there have been minor shooting incidents. But until now there have been no reports of concentrated shelling of Serbian territory.

Dismissing the previous incidents, Tanjug said: "This is the first time that Ustasha (Croatian) forces have attacked the territory of Serbia."

It said medical teams were helping the wounded but there were no further details. "Military sources confirmed a grain silo near the railway station was hit," Tanjug said.

"About 10 minutes before 11 o'clock (1000 GMT), Sid in the Serbian province of Vojvodina was attacked," Tanjug said.



A Yugoslav soldier guards a bridge near Vinkovci which was blown up to prevent federal tanks advancing.

Miyazawa elected premier, forms new cabinet

TOKYO (AP) — Political veteran Kiichi Miyazawa was elected prime minister Tuesday, launching an administration that promised more forceful leadership than his inexperienced predecessor, Toshiki Kaifu.

Mr. Miyazawa, 72, whose election caps a government career reaching back 49 years, was chosen by the parliament in a largely ceremonial vote that confirmed his earlier selection by the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Mr. Miyazawa, 72, was forced to resign as finance minister in 1988 in the Recruit influence-buying scandal. His return to government was assured when he was elected president of the Liberal Democrats (LDP) on Oct. 27.

Over 120 feared dead in Philippine flash floods

TACLOBAN, Philippines (R) — Flash floods triggered by a tropical storm ripped through villages in the central Philippines Tuesday and first reports said more than 120 people had drowned.

The regional Disaster Coordinating Council said reports from the central island of Leyte listed 126 people dead and 46,000 made homeless.

The floods spawned by tropical storm Thelma swept away houses along two major rivers some 50 kilometres southwest of the Leyte capital Tacloban.

Leyte Governor Leopoldo Patillas issued a public appeal for assistance in the face of what he termed a tremendous disaster.

Vicente Garcia, regional police commander and head of the Disaster Coordinating Council, said the storm had caused millions of dollars in damage to crops and infrastructure.

area Wednesday.

The widow of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos toured former family strongholds after making a triumphal return from exile to Manila Monday.

Teodoro Buan, provincial civil defence director, said field workers were trying to identify the bodies of those drowned.

He said at least 100 were confirmed dead and the toll could be higher. Several people were missing.

He said the island of Samar to the northeast was also badly affected.

Mr. Garcia said at least 23 villages around the town of Pastura, some 20 kilometres southwest of Tacloban, were under water.

The government weather bureau said Thelma had left Leyte by mid-afternoon.

At least 62 people died when typhoon Ruth tore through part of the main Philippine island of Luzon last month.

Vietnam, China normalise ties

PEKING (R) — China and Vietnam Tuesday normalised ties after a 20-year rift and got down to talks to define a new relationship based on trade and economic cooperation.

The announcement was made by the New China News Agency after Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet opened discussions in Peking with their Chinese counterparts.

"Chinese top leaders and visiting Vietnamese top leaders announced here today that the high-level talks between the two sides marked the normalisation of Sino-Vietnamese relations," the agency said.

Mr. Do Muoi and Mr. Kiet arrived in Peking Tuesday at the invitation of Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng.

They were welcomed in Peking's Tiananmen Square with a 21-gun salute and an honour guard of troops from the People's Liberation Army before talks began in the Great Hall of the People on the square.

Quick-response force forms centrepiece of new-look NATO

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — A new NATO military strategy, designed to reflect the eclipse of the Soviet threat, features a 70,000-strong force to respond quickly to crises anywhere in alliance territory.

The British-led force will draw units from at least half the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members in the alliance's most ambitious bid to integrate forces of different nationalities.

The Rapid Reaction Corps is the centrepiece of a new strategic doctrine to be approved at a summit of President Bush and other NATO leaders Thursday and Friday in Rome.

"The purpose of it is to be available in conditions of crisis (so it can) be deployed within the alliance to where it may be needed," said William H. Taft IV, U.S. ambassador to NATO.

Officials say the unit is suited to the most likely future dangers, including spillovers of ethnic unrest in Eastern Europe and extremism in the Middle East.

The overall NATO strategy calls for smaller, more flexible forces, a greater emphasis on diplomacy to solve crisis and less reliance on nuclear weapons.

It replaces a cold war strategy focused on the threat of an invasion by the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies into Western Europe.

Under that scheme, the bulk of NATO forces were arrayed along the inter-German border, where NATO planners considered a

Warsaw Pact attack most likely. Now, with democracy sprouting in Eastern Europe and the Warsaw Pact disbanded, NATO officials say such concentration on one region is impossible.

"The Rapid Reaction Force is designed to reflect the fact that we can no longer depend on any geographical focus for a threat to the territorial integrity of the alliance," said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a possible harbinger of future alliance activity, NATO sent jets and missile defence units to Turkey earlier this year to bolster its border with Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

The new Rapid Reaction Corps, under overall British command, will consist of at least four divisions that could go into action within seven days of a decision to intervene.

These component include a British armoured division based in Germany and a British light division in Britain.

Also included are an air-mobile division made of British, German, Dutch and Belgian units and an Italian-led division of units from southern NATO countries, probably Italy, Greece and Turkey.

A 200-jet air force and a naval unit of undetermined size will be attached to the unit, NATO officials said.

In addition, the force will include a unit of a few thousand soldiers ready to respond within 72 hours of a deployment order.

Flexibility is the watchword. "It could fight as a corps, but it could also provide some of its elements to fight in any emergency," said Andrew Duncan, analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

The United States has promised transport and other logistical support and is debating whether to contribute a division of about 15,000 troops to the force.

"We have been asked to participate and we have made it known that we will be contributing," Mr. Taft said.

Washington plans to have its Europe-based force to an army corps of at most 150,000 troops as part of an overall 25-per cent NATO cutback to about 625,000 soldiers by 1995.

Besides the quick-response unit, NATO will retain seven corps totaling about 550,000 soldiers in Europe at a lower state of readiness. Germany plans to contribute the bulk of these units, with the United States, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Canada supplying the rest.

With NATO forces shrinking, the new strategy stresses the need for closer cooperation between forces from different nations.

The Rapid Reaction Corps marks the first time NATO will assemble a multinational unit as small as a division.

Although most components of the force will remain in their home countries in peace time, their officers will work side-by-side in command centres.

Mrs. Marcos posts bail for fraud charges

MANILA — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos was fingerprinted Tuesday after surrendering to a Manila judge following a government order for her arrest on tax fraud charges.

"It's a sad day," a visibly shocked Mrs. Marcos told court officials, holding up her inked fingers.

Mrs. Marcos, widow of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos and once one of the world's richest women, was released on bail of 75,000 pesos (\$2,700).

The money in 100 peso bills was handed over in the crowded judge's chambers wrapped in a plastic bag. Marcos provided her own pictures instead of having a "mug-shot" taken.

The former beauty queen, a diamond ring on one hand, was dressed in white. Her initial smile gave way to a look of disbelief when her fingers were inked with black ink.

The 62-year-old widow, known for her love for glamorous clothes and designer shoes, returned to a triumphal welcome in the Philippines Monday from almost six years' exile in the United States.

She and her husband, who died in 1989, were driven out of the country after a popular revolt in 1986. They are accused of embezzling \$5 billion during their 20-year rule.

Mrs. Marcos, who says she returned to clear her name, gave herself up to Judge Antonio Solano in the Manila suburb of Quezon City where she has seven tax fraud cases pending against her.

Three are being tried by Judge Solano and four by another judge who set additional bail of 100,000 pesos (\$3,700).

when she arrived aboard a chartered jet from Hawaii.

The tax cases are among 70 criminal and civil charges she is facing. If convicted on all counts she could in theory be jailed for more than 100 years.

Mrs. Marcos surrendered after returning from a trip to the family's northern stronghold of Ilocos Norte, where she was mobbed by cheering supporters.

Antonio Coronel, Mrs. Marcos's defence attorney and his nation's top criminal lawyer, seemed almost delighted Tuesday at the prospect of a trial.

"This case is defensible. They want to try her on tax evasion charges committed when she was out of the country in exile with her property confiscated," he told a news conference.

"They would have had a better chance if they were trying President Marcos than his wife. Our defence will be similar to the defence offered for her in New York," she was just a wife.

Marcos made out his tax returns, not his wife.

Violence erupts in S. African tax protest

DAVEYTON, South Africa (R) — Police shot dead a black demonstrator and wounded five Tuesday, the second day of a general strike called by South African unions to protest government policy.

A police spokesman said officers killed the man in Daveyton black township, east of Johannesburg, after he pointed an Ak-47 rifle at them. Witnesses said they had seen no weapon.

An ambulance attendant who treated one of the wounded accused the police of opening fire indiscriminately on a group of

blacks walking to a rally at Daveyton Stadium.

After the shooting several thousands blacks marched from the stadium to government on value added tax (VAT) six weeks ago, the ostensible reason for the strike.

Blacks stayed away from work in droves for the second day running Tuesday in what the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) called a massive vote of no confidence in the government of President F.W. de Klerk.

Police said bombs damaged

railway lines to Johannesburg and Cape Town early Tuesday in what may have been an attempt to prevent commuters going to work. No one was hurt.

The Daveyton shooting followed the deaths of 15 miners Sunday in a clash between strikers and workers defying the two-day stoppage.

Police said two other people had been killed in violence linked to the strike. Another 17 blacks died in clashes arising from the generalised township violence which has claimed 3,000 lives in the last year.

AIDS scandal reaches top French political circles

PARIS (AP) — Accusations that health authorities knowingly gave blood contaminated with the AIDS virus to hemophiliacs is fueling an emotional scandal that has rocked the top political echelons of France.

Two senior medical officials have been charged with failing to alert recipients in 1984 and 1985 that the blood they received may have been contaminated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Two others, including one charged Monday, have been charged with failing to stop the transfusions.

The medical officials assert they are being unfairly persecuted. They blame politicians who failed to take measures to assure that only non-contaminated blood was used in transfusions.

"There is a collective responsibility here. I'm not going to be made a scapegoat," said Dr. Michel Garretta, former director of the National Blood Transfusion Centre and one of those charged.

Conservative politicians said the Socialist government headed by then-Premier Laurent Fabius from 1984 to 1986 should accept responsibility for the scandal.

"If it's verified that there is direct political responsibility... there will have to be charges at the highest level," Francois Bayrou, secretary-general of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), said Sunday.

The scandal erupted after a government-ordered report released in September disclosed that some hemophiliacs may have received blood transfusions that authorities knew were tainted with the HIV virus, which causes AIDS.

About 1,200 hemophiliacs, nearly half France's total, have become HIV-positive, and more than 200 have died of AIDS, according to the French Hemophilia Association.

Dr. Jacques Roux, another of the officials charged, has accused the Fabius government of diverting funds that could have been used for purifying blood to an electoral campaign account.

Dr. Roux, a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, was director of public health at the time. He has offered no solid proof to back up his allegations, but a court threw out a request by Mr. Fabius to stop news media from carrying Dr. Roux's remarks.

Dr. Roux and Dr. Garretta were accused with Robert Netter, director of the National Hemophilia Laboratory, and Jean-Pierre Allain, former research director for the National Blood Transfusion Centre.

Dr. Allain was charged Monday with failing to warn hemophiliacs that the blood they were receiving could be contaminated with AIDS. He faces a six-month to four-year prison term and a fine of 2,000 to 500,000 francs (about \$365 to \$90,910).

Dr. Roux accuses the Health and Finance Ministers of ignoring recommendations by scientists in 1984 that all blood be tested for the HIV virus, discovered a year earlier by French researchers.

The testing, coupled with U.S.-developed heat treatments of blood to neutralise contamination, would have required an annual budget allowance of 200 million francs (\$34 million), he said.

The 1984-85 budget halved that amount. Dr. Roux claims, forcing the National Foundation for Blood Transfusion, an umbrella group that includes Dr. Garretta's centre, to give hemophiliacs untreated blood.

Dr. Fabius, a favourite of President Francois Mitterrand and a prospective successor in 1995, has labeled Dr. Roux's accusations "shameful" and politically motivated.

"We have absolutely no right to use this sad issue for political ends," he said. "We can't judge what happened in that period with what we know today, because there were many scientific errors."

The report shows that the government in February 1985 delayed approving a test developed by a U.S. laboratory for detecting the AIDS virus, waiting instead for a French test to become available. Mandatory testing of blood donors took effect that August.

COLUMN

CBS gets U.S. rights to Scarlett in \$10 million deal

NEW YORK (R) — Like the memory of the glory of the old American south, the phenomenon of Scarlett lives on. CBS television said Monday it has acquired the U.S. television rights to the novel Scarlett, the best-selling sequel to Gone With the Wind in a deal valued at nearly \$10 million, four times the previous record. An investment group by RHI Entertainment Inc. won the rights after a frenzied month-long auction by the estate of Gone With the Wind author Margaret Mitchell.

Robert Halimi, chairman of RHI, said CBS will pay an undisclosed fee and about two-thirds of the production costs of the miniseries, which have been estimated at up to \$40 million. In return the network would broadcast the series twice. Mr. Halimi and his partners, the Kirch Group of Germany and Italian TV Mogul Silvio Berlusconi, will get the remaining world rights, which could include foreign broadcasts and videocassette and laserdisc sales.

Democrats lampoon Bush with 'anywhere but America' T-shirts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic National Committee (DNC) is taking a fresh swipe at President Bush's frequent foreign travels with a T-shirt promoting his "anywhere but America" tour. The president heads for Rome Wednesday to attend a two-day NATO meeting, a trip that inspired the wording on the front of the T-shirt: "George Bush went to Rome and all I got was this lousy recession." On the back, the T-shirt lists more than 30 foreign cities Bush has travelled to in the past year or plans to visit soon. Modeled after shirts sold at rock concerts, the cities are listed under the headline: "George Bush... the anywhere but America tour." It's a high time for President Bush to phone home, DNC Chairman Ronald Brown said in a statement Monday.

Dial '00' for the world, EC ministers say

BRUSSELS — Ringing Birmingham from Barcelona? Lisbon from Liege? It doesn't matter where you call from in the European Community (EC), all international calls should begin with the number "00," community telecommunications ministers have agreed. There are currently seven international dialing prefixes in the community, Denmark "009," Ireland "16," Spain "01," France "19," Britain "010," and the Netherlands "09" will have to switch to "00" by the end of 1998 at the latest if the proposal is approved.

Chinese official fined for having six concubines

PEKING (R) — A Chinese official, impressed by a book called Hong Kong Bigwig, set himself up with six concubines who bore him seven children, the China Daily said Monday. Jiang Jizong, a former building team chief in the southern province of Guangdong, was detained for three months and fined 4,000 yuan (\$750) after he was caught gambling at the home of one of his "wives" in July, the official newspaper said. Jiang told the authorities he had been "badly affected by bourgeois thoughts" contained in the novel, which depicts the amorous adventures of a Hong Kong magnate.

Rat cuts phone links

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A rat sneaked into a microwave telecommunications centre and bit a telephone cable, cutting off eight northern districts from the capital for 19 hours, a newspaper reported Monday. The rat was found dead on the floor of the Dinajpur Microwave centre, 295 kilometres north of Dhaka, the Bengali-language daily Khalakt said. The centre links Dhaka with the northern districts of Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Nipahani, Rangpur, Kurigram and Gaibandha. Phone lines were down from 10 p.m. (1600 GMT) Saturday to 5 p.m. (1300 GMT) Sunday affecting about 7,000 subscribers, the paper said. It was not known what caused the rat's death.

On The Occasion Of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday

- The Jordan Valley Arabian Stud announces the official opening of the club on Friday 8/11/1991, which includes free activities in riding, polo and archery.
- The club will only offer free refreshments. Visitors are welcome to bring their own food and refreshments.
- T-shirts will be given free to children. An exhibition of Arabian Horses will be held.
- Admission for families is free. The club will open at 9:00 a.m.
- The location of the club is close to Queen Alia Airport, 4 km from the entrance of the Jiza Village.
- Signs showing the way to the club will be posted from the 7th Circle until the entrance of the Jiza Village.

Handwritten note in Arabic: "هذا من الأصل"